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Constructors from First Presbyterian Church put finishing touches on their project that looks like their church building. (BRANDON SHIELDS/The Jackson Post)



The front of the concourse at the Carl Perkins Civic Center is lined with different companies’ Construction projects. (BRANDON SHIELDS/The Jackson Post)

Companies make their offerings for Canstruction 2024

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

The lobby of the Carl Perkins Civic Center was a busy place Tuesday.

Fifteen local entities – non-profits, churches, companies and other groups – signed up to compete in this year’s edition of Canstruction.

Canstruction is one of the biggest food drives of the year. Regional Interfaith Association (RIFA) has each year, and it’s their biggest fundraiser too.

The competitors gather loads of canned food and fashion those cans into a sculpture.

First Presbyterian Church put together a miniature version of their church building, complete with their tower that has the Carilion in it that would eventually play music once the construction was complete.

Jackson-Madison County Schools’ STEM coordinator Michelle Plyler was on hand for the school district’s creation along with a few other educators and a group of students, mainly from the Malesus Innovation Center.

“When we began planning our

project, we decided to put together another version of the “I Love My Neighborhood” mural that was in Downtown,” Plyler said.

Plyler said it was shortly after that when the mural was damaged after the neighbors in The Blacksmith restaurant bought the building and knocked out part of the wall with the mural for a couple of doors. In recent days, the rest of the wall has been painted over, covering the rest of the mural.

“So we’re calling it the memorial to the mural,” Plyler said.

Toyota TBDN finished their project early, and it was an image of a TBDN truck delivering food to RIFA.

Regions Bank had a crew in place building a slice of pie.

A first-time company to the event was putting together something that not only brought food and funds to RIFA, but would help others who see it bring more money to the organization.

Hitachi Energy has had a presence in West Tennessee since buying the ABB factory in Alamo in 2020.

The corporation as a whole holds community involvement as a high priority value, and this year, the company has been present in Jackson – taking part in various career fair opportunities with JMCCS, being one of the first companies willing to sponsor the Madison County Fire Department’s Freedom Fest fireworks show, being a part of other big local events like Jackson International Food & Arts Festival and other such efforts.

“Hitachi knows that the people of the community are vital to the success of each of their locations, so they want the people of the company as well as the organization itself to be an active part of the community,” said Julia Ewoldt, the community outreach coordinator for Hitachi. “Having been around Jackson and West Tennessee all my life and being with Hitachi for right at a year now, I knew Canstruction would be a great event for us to be a part of.”

During their Canstruction debut, a group of engineers

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JacQuene Rainey

Rainey named TCAT Jackson president

Staff Reports

A woman with 15 years in the College of Applied Technology system in Tennessee will take the helm at TCAT-Jackson next month.

During its quarterly meeting Friday, the Tennessee Board of Regents appointed Dr. JacQuene Rainey as the next president of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson, effective Oct. 1.

Dr. Rainey, who joined the TCAT system in 2009, has been vice president of academic affairs at TCAT Northwest since 2018. At Jackson, she will succeed Heath McMillian, who was appointed president of TCAT Elizabethton in June. Dr. Jeff Sisk, executive director of TBR’s Center for Workforce Development and a former president of TCAT Jackson, has served as interim president during the search process.

She earned a Doctor of Education Leadership and Policy Analysis at East Tennessee State University, a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership,

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WTH HONORS PAST, LOOKS TO FUTURE



The platform in the worship center at Englewood Baptist Church had a number of photographs of James “JR” Ross from different times in his career at West Tennessee Healthcare displayed during his funeral service on Sept. 20, 2024. (Photo taken from Englewood’s livestream of the service)

Ross remembered for compassion, humility

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

The funeral procession for James “JR” Ross left Englewood Baptist Church on Highland Avenue after the service honoring his legacy was complete.

It headed south and took a detour to bring him by Jackson-Madison County General Hospital and the offices of West Tennessee Healthcare – whom he’d work for 39 years for including the last seven as CEO – and back to Highland

off Forest after taking him one last time by Kirkland Cancer Center.

It turned back south again on Highland, headed for the place of Ross’ raising – Chester County, where he was laid to rest.

But like many things in Ross’ life, his funeral service didn’t happen without much planning.

“This will be one of the easiest funerals I’ve ever preached,” said Ben Mandrell, the CEO and President of Lifeway Christian Resources and former senior pastor at Englewood. “When we talked about this

service, JR was clear about what he wanted, so everything that happens here today, JR handpicked everything himself.

“So if you have a problem with anything, take it up with him on the other side.”

There were many chuckles in the crowd before the worship team from Englewood resumed performing a few more songs.

Steve Gaines, the senior pastor at Bellvue Baptist Church in Memphis and former pastor at West Jackson Baptist, appeared

via video to speak on Ross’ behalf as he was pastor there when Ross became a member at West Jackson.

“JR was a prayer warrior who would show up every Sunday and listen to the sermon with notebook in hand taking notes,” Gaines said. “And then he’d go out during the week and live that sermon out.”

Ross’ cousin, Cathy, gave some family perspective as she and JR were two of 23 first cousins in the Ross fam-

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Tina Prescott

Prescott chosen as new CEO

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

In the wake of the passing of CEO/President James “JR” Ross, the West Tennessee Healthcare Board of Directors moved in their monthly meeting to put another person into that leadership role for the system.

Tina Prescott, who’s come up through the nursing program since joining West Tennessee Health-

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Local News

Local students receive books through state program

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

Representatives from the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (GELF) were at Alexander Elementary School on Friday doing their part to help childhood literacy in that school.

"We're going across the state to 39 CIS schools and a total of 15,000 students delivering books to them to encourage reading outside of school," said Abigail Sanderson, the director of development for GELF. "This is the second year we've done this, and some of the schools we're coming to for a second time, we're hearing some great things from the students."

A row of book racks were lined up in the gym at Alexander with a variety of books available for them to look at and take home with them.

This is part of GELF's Opportunities with Literacy program that helps provide more books in the home with hopes of improving literacy rates among students as they reach and go through third grade.

"Research has shown that the more books you have in the home, the more likely you are to become a better reader," Sanderson said. "That's not even if you have read all the books, but just that exposure to different content, if you do pick up the books and read them, you're going to become a better reader from practice."



Students at Alexander Elementary listen to Taylor Tapley with the Governor's Literacy Foundation talk about the book opportunity they have before them and how they're going to pick books out. (BRANDON SHIELDS/The Jackson Post)

er from practice.

"But you'll have a larger vocabulary, and you'll be more empathetic because reading a book, you're usually putting yourself in the place of the characters you're reading about and seeing things from their perspective."

Along with Alexander, GELF's representatives also made stops at Isaac Lane, Jackson Careers and Technology and Lincoln Elementary as those are grouped as CIS schools also, which are

in the bottom 5 percent of schools in terms of literacy rates.

Students were able to pick out six books, and they were theirs to keep.

"That's something a lot of the students at all the schools we've visited across the state have had some difficulty understanding," Sanderson said. "These books are free, and they can take them home to read."

"Some kids came in and said they couldn't take any because they had no money. Others

asked when they were supposed to be brought back. But these are their books."

Kenton Evans is in his first year as principal at Alexander. About halfway through the day, he said he saw a good bit of excitement from the students who'd received their books.

"A lot of our students seem to really be getting into reading because we started the Leap Up for Literacy program last spring where we were challenged to read 20

minutes per day," Evans said. "And I think that partnered with this will go a long way toward helping our children learn how to read on the appropriate levels."

The GELF program allows the opportunity for a child to have 24 books by the end of their third grade year, and 24 more are available through the summer reading program. That plus the 60 books children get through the Imagination Library — one per month for the

first five years of their life if they're signed up before birth — gives children the potential to have 108 books they can call their own at the end of third grade.

"Just think if the children who have that in their homes actually pick those books up and read them," Sanderson said. "That can open up so many educational opportunities for the children, and that's why we're here today."

Brandon Shields, brandon@jacksonpost.news

CANSTRUCTION

From 1A

and creative people on their staff put their heads together and put together a plan that at first looks like there is no plan, until one reads or hears the explanation behind the design.

On the side facing the windows at the entrance to the Civic Center, cans of Bush's Baked Beans face the outside, and they're situated with cans of fruit salad, but their labels are facing inward into the construction with the dietary information of the cans being visible and in stark contrast with the dark green and brown of the bean cans.

"When people first walk up to it, they will think there's nothing here, but actually there is," Ewoldt said. "If people put their phones up to our project from a certain distance or even a photo of our project, they will see this is the QR code that will take their phone to the website where you can donate to RIFA."

"So we hope this will be an added way for people to donate that might not have otherwise."

The groups had until Tuesday at 9 p.m. to finish their projects. Then



This view from the side is a look at Hitachi Energy's Canstruction project that's a little less than half complete as it will be nearly the maximum height when the engineers are finished with it. (BRANDON SHIELDS/The Jackson Post)

they'll be on display all day on Wednesday. Then Thursday night, RIFA will have its annual celebration of Canstruction complete with entertainment from comedian Mike Goodwin.

"We're so grateful for all the support and all the effort these teams are putting in," said De-

nise Walton, the community outreach coordinator for RIFA. "We're looking forward to a fun evening on Thursday celebrating the work RIFA does and the work done by our competing teams."

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ROSS

From 1A

ily of Chester County.

"We were like a Black version of the family in the movie 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding,'" Cathy Ross said. "Always having fun, always loud, always eating ... it was always a good time."

"Most of you in this room know him as 'JR' or 'James,' but those of us in the family knew him growing up as 'Jamie.' And Jamie was an adorable little boy with curly hair that I always wanted to braid but he wouldn't let me."

He was an only child, but he was hardly ever alone because of how close the extended family was.

"We'd have sleepovers at our grandparents' or one of the aunts or uncles, and they'd put as many kids as they could cross ways on the bed or beds to get more kids on a bed somehow," Cathy said. "Then everybody else would sleep on the floor."

"Once he grew up and reached a certain level at the hospital, none of us ever visited the hospital without him seeing us before we left. He was a consultant on every medical condition — real and otherwise. And just like with all of you, he

had the ability to make us think we were the most important person he could possibly be talking to at that moment."

When he returned to the pulpit for his sermon, Mandrell was more emotional as he told a personal story that showed how important JR was for him early in his days as a young senior pastor at Englewood who'd just taken over for Phillip Jett, who cast a large shadow after serving more than two decades in leading Englewood.

The church had recently bought the Old English Inn for the purposes of possible campus expansion, and the hotel was still operated by some within the church. When Union University was hit by a tornado on Feb. 5, 2008, the church decided to let the Inn become a place where Union students displaced by the storm could stay for the rest of the semester.

That move actually forced a number of workers at the Inn to lose their jobs, and Mandrell was the one who would call a staff meeting and inform them of what was going on.

"I went to that meeting that night to face those people who were

being told they were losing their jobs, and JR stood there with me and gave those present comfort and compassion," Mandrell said. "He was there with me at the beginning and the last one there with me that night, and I never forgot how important his presence and help was to me that night."

"And in my first couple of years of stepping in to the position recently vacated Dr. Jett, who was loved by everyone in Jackson, JR had the super power to look into your eyes and give you the confidence you needed to accomplish the job you had to do. My only regret is I don't ever remember a time when I told him thanks for that."

The West Tennessee Healthcare community and others from Jackson and West Tennessee took the time to tell JR "thanks" and give the family their respects as the procession to the hospital was lined on both sides with those remembering the man who led 7,000 employees in helping the sick, injured and invalid of Jackson and West Tennessee.

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TCAT

From 1A

both at Union University.

Dr. Rainey joined the TCAT system in 2009 as student services coordinator at the former TCAT Whiteville (now a branch of TCAT Jackson), where she served until 2017 when she was named assistant director of the TCAT Northwest's Covington and Ripley campuses. She was promoted to vice president of Northwest the following year, helping the president lead

all three campuses. In 2016-17, she also taught Administrative Office Technology courses in the systemwide online program.

She is also a graduate of the TCAT Leadership Academy, the Maxine Smith Fellows Leadership Program, and Leadership Hardeman County. Prior to her higher education career, she worked in manufacturing industries in Jackson. Her full resumé is on

the search webpage at <https://www.tbr.edu/hr/executivesearches/president-tcat-jackson>.

The other finalist for the TCAT-Jackson president position was John Hodgson, who is currently TCAT Jackson's vice president of workforce development and a staff member there since 2000. He earned a master of science degree in rehabilitation counseling and a bachelor of science in education,

both from the University of Memphis, and is enrolled in the doctor of education in education leadership and policy analysis program at East Tennessee State University.

The Board approved the search criteria for the TCAT Jackson presidency at its June meeting. A search committee reviewed 46 applicants and selected seven for interviews on Aug. 12 before recommending

the two finalists. As part of the selection process, the Board fielded public and campus community input online from Sept. 4-9.

The search committee was chaired by Regent Kyle Spurgeon and included Regents Mark George, Nisha Powers and Ross Roberts, and representatives of the TCAT faculty, staff, students, and community members.

To view more TBR

actions taken during last week's board meeting, visit this article on jacksonpost.news.

The College System of Tennessee is the state's largest public higher education system, with 13 community colleges, 24 colleges of applied technology and the online TN eCampus serving approximately 140,000 students. The system is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Opinion

Thanks to Pete Johnson for 5 years leading JMCSS Board

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

While last month's Jackson-Madison County School Board meeting was a transitional one that saw the Board possibly take a new direction with Harvey Walden as the new chair, it's worth taking a few inches of column space to thank former chair James "Pete" Johnson for his work as chair.

Fortunately for the Board that has nine members and seven of them have two years or less of experience serving on the Board, Johnson isn't leaving the Board. But his nameplate will be moved off the center seat on the front of the Board's dais in their meeting room where the chairman sits before their next Board meeting.

Since Janice Hampton lost her re-election bid and her 12 years of experience are no longer officially on the Board, Johnson is the elder statesman on the Board with all of six years of service under his belt in that capacity.

When he first came on, he was one of five new Board members elected. Two of those five didn't make it for a full four-year term. One other lost re-election in 2022 and

the other opted not to run for school board, but instead A.J. Massey ran for County Mayor.

The first year on the Board with that new group of five was an eventful year to say the least.

Outspoken members like Morris Merriweather and Shannon Stewart had no reservations about letting their thoughts be heard, and the long-range planning committee meetings with Merriweather as the chair because must-see online streaming for those of us who tried to go live from those meetings as new strategies would try to be implemented at almost every meeting.

Meanwhile in the center of the Board room, tensions between then-Superintendent Eric Jones and then-Board Chair Kevin Alexander were usually pretty high as Alexander and Jones would seemingly come to some type of agreement during a private conversation before some Board meetings only for Alexander to go in another direction when it was time to vote on the issues at hand that had been previously discussed.

After a year of that, Alexander no longer was interested in being chairman. Johnson was nominated and elected to



Shields

serve as the leader of the leaders of the District.

Admittedly, he and I haven't always seen eye-to-eye. Some of our readers may remember a committee meeting that was being live streamed by my friend Steve Beverly, and after a key vote had been made (I don't even remember what was being voted on now), I followed Johnson out to try to get comments from him and Beverly came too along with his camera and its live mic.

Some people thought Johnson was being singled out by myself and Beverly because they thought I'd never followed anyone else out of a meeting before, but the fact of the matter is I've followed a number of people after meetings or other events – elected officials, public servants, football coaches – but this was the only one

Beverly was there filming.

But in October of 2019, Johnson took over the Board. They were about six months into Ray Washington's interim year as Superintendent. The County Commission had just bought the land on Ashport Road against the wishes of the Board where Pope School is being built. The Commission and City Council had to approve (again) entering into the public-private partnership that would wind up bringing Jackson-Central Merry back from the land of closed schools and send Madison a few blocks west to the campus of the University of Memphis at Lambuth. Merriweather would resign the following February because he was moving away. And a month after that, COVID-19 made its way to Tennessee and shut down school for the rest of the school year just in time for Carol Carter-Estes to be appointed to the Board by the Madison County Commission.

And while all this is going on, they're also trying to conduct a search for the next permanent Superintendent, which had become a JMCSS tradition to do every two or three years.

Without Merriweather's outspoken methods

serving on the Board, voting to hire Marlon King as the Superintendent actually became a more civil affair than feared.

But tensions were still high as King's approval wasn't unanimous. But Johnson urged the Board to air their grievances with each other in a professional manner and to keep the Board meetings as drama free as possible.

Johnson made sure the Board supported King during the transition and as they dealt with the pandemic for his first couple years in leadership.

There were plenty of tough decisions to be made, and oftentimes, the choices were not black and white, but subtle shades of gray, particularly when making decisions about keeping students safe during the pandemic.

Then came the last couple of years when many local citizens – many of whom have never had a child or grandchild in the local school system – wanted to intervene to have their preference of education be what was used by JMCSS.

Charter schools, third-grade literacy, proficiency tests and altered methods of evaluation all became points of contention – and he along with

King were the main people dealing with the contention.

Now that he's passed his gavel to Walden, it's time for Johnson to hear a collective thanks from the community – even if you disagree with him on a lot of his decisions. Because like I said earlier this month, it's my sincere belief that every decision this Board makes, each member is voting what they think is best for every student.

That's what Johnson has done in helping lead the Board and District through difficult times.

So thank you for your work, sir, and I hope you keep the new Board leadership honest by challenging them in a civil and professional manner the way they challenged you in your leadership.

Because when y'all are challenging each other, you're more likely to hear from different perspectives and everyone makes a more informed decision, which is what the community and district wants and needs from the group anyway.

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Public conversation regarding diversity needs to change

Gabe Hart
Columnist

One of my favorite television characters is Don Draper, the embattled antihero protagonist of the award-winning series *Mad Men*. Draper was an excellent adman but a terrible human being. He was vindictive, verbally abusive, and incredibly flawed in many other areas of his personal life. He was also an advertising genius, and, now and then, he would say something so brilliant that the viewer could momentarily forget the Mr. Hyde side of his persona.

One of his most famous quotes in the series – one that's famously repeated several times throughout the series – goes like this: "If you don't like what's being said, change the conversation."

Conversations happen all around us now - in person, on our phones, on a screen, and anywhere else there's cellular service or working wifi. Even when we're

not directly involved in these conversations, they have a way of worming their way into our subconscious by virtual osmosis. Even if the information isn't valid, the macabre of the messaging could be so powerful that people lose interest in finding out whether that information is accurate. In some cases, presidential candidates even recklessly and ignorantly mention it in a live debate on national television.

With increasing frequency, these same narratives are finding their way to our local community. One, in particular, was loud enough that the mayor and the sheriff both had to address it publicly because of an irresponsible local talk radio host.

We should expect more from someone running for the highest office of our country. We should expect more from conservative talk radio in our city, but maybe we just need to change the conversation. I'll start.

I stopped by the Jackson International Food



Hart

and Arts Festival at the Fairgrounds this past weekend. While I had attended multiple years when the festival was downtown, this was my first year seeing it in all its glory at the Fairgrounds. I wasn't just blown away; I was also pleasantly surprised to see how diverse the vendors were, but in a way I didn't expect.

The rich cultures of global countries were represented in food, music, art, and vendors selling their cultural creations. There was a tent selling Guatemalan food, one selling Mediterranean food, one playing soulful Hispanic music,

and many other tents celebrating their rich, diverse heritages. All of that was beautiful and expected.

What surprised me the most, however, were the other tents I didn't expect to see, even though the event was all-inclusive.

The first tent I passed was manned by a Caucasian couple selling home decor with a religious bend. I stopped to look around for a possible Christmas gift for my mom. A few tents over was the legendary Cliff Martin and his JKSN-branded fashion. I was wearing my JKSN shirt and paused my walk to show Cliff. A little further down, I ran into an old friend who had created some of the most interesting pieces of jewelry from discarded metals. But like the previous vendors mentioned in this paragraph, there was nothing international about her.

As I continued my orbit around the Fairgrounds, I began to notice something about some of the people attending, as well:

they didn't seem like people who would celebrate something as welcoming and open as JI-FAF. A few seconds later, I had to mentally chastise myself for assuming something about people simply based on their personal presentation or the MAGA hat they wore as they enjoyed the exact same myriad cultural offerings that I was enjoying.

I realized that I was witnessing exactly what diversity is – a variety of people and all of their strengths, weaknesses, and personal beliefs in the same space celebrating the exceptional qualities of different cultures. Is that not what America is at its core - a melting pot of humanity blending and fusing to make something extraordinary and valuable?

Throughout history, people have migrated and moved for a plethora of reasons. To be so ignorant and callous as to stereotype a group of individuals who are only trying to make better lives for themselves or their children - some-

thing every single person reading this article would do - is unconscionable. To wrongly assume, like I did, who should or shouldn't be celebrating diversity is wrong, too. We all should be better than that - for our country, our community, and ourselves.

Diversity is a beautiful thing – diversity of thought, beliefs, race, and ethnicity. All of it is necessary for a thriving democratic republic.

While Don Draper's quote about "changing the conversation" gets all of the attention of *Mad Men* fanboys like myself, what precedes it in one particular scene is more applicable to this subject matter.

"Change is neither good or bad; it simply is. It can be greeted with terror or joy - a tantrum that says 'I want it the way it was' or a dance that says, 'Look. Something new.'"

I say we dance.
Gabe Hart is a local educator who's written columns for various news outlets locally and statewide.

Accountability: Mission Possible

Dustin Fenton
Special to The Post

Accountability is tough. Whether it's

holding someone else accountable or ourselves, it's a challenge many leaders face daily. In fact, I hear the question time and time again:

"How do I hold someone accountable?" Through my experience coaching business owners, I've learned that the answer is often simpler than

it seems. It's about finding the right balance between support and challenge.

Let me share a story about Rob, a small business owner who struggled with this very issue. Rob runs a custom cabinet shop in a small town, much like many of the businesses you'll find here in Tennessee. He had a team member, Sam, who was a hard worker and a nice guy, but Sam struggled to stay on task. His mind often wandered, and he spent too much time on side

projects, causing delays in the company's main priorities. Rob liked Sam and knew he had a family depending on his job, but Rob was at his breaking point. The busy season was approaching, and Rob couldn't afford to have a team member who wasn't pulling his weight.

Like many small business owners, Rob felt stuck. Firing Sam wasn't something he wanted to do, but continuing to let things slide wasn't an option either. Rob realized that, without meaning

too, he had created an environment where Sam (and several other team members) had become entitled. He wasn't being held accountable, and while Rob's inward and outward frustration would be evident, there was no real consequence for Sam's lack of focus.

When Rob and I sat down to work through the problem, we came up with two key ideas: accountability isn't just about consequences –

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Faith

DOOLEY NOTED

Pope Francis and the uncertain sound of pluralism

Adam Dooley
Columnist

Pope Francis recently dropped quite a theological bombshell at an interreligious youth gathering in Singapore by claiming that “all religions are paths to God.” He went on to explain that religions are like languages seeking to express the divine. “There is only one God,” the pontiff stated, “and each of us has a language, so to speak, in order to arrive at God. Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, Christian. There are different paths. Understand?”

Unfortunately, this is not the first time Pope Francis has dipped his toe in the waters of religious pluralism. Back in 2022, at a similar meeting in Kazakhstan, the leader of the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics caused similar confusion when he addressed the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions as a united “fraternity” made up of “children of the same heaven . . . journeying toward the same heavenly goal.” By doing so, this pope placed himself in direct opposition to the faith once and for all handed down to the saints (Jude 1:3), and consequently, the preaching of the Savior he claims to represent.

But why should followers of Christ who are not Catholic care about sloppy statements like these? As much as we might like to pretend that only our friends in Rome must worry about such errant theology, the reality is that Protestants are drinking the same pluralistic poison. According to a 2022 LifeWay Study, almost six out of ten evangelicals agree with the statement, “God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.” Either ignorance of or apathy for Scripture seems to be the most common hermeneutic today.

As God prepared ancient Israel to birth the Messiah, He repeatedly admonished them regarding his exclusivity (Deut. 6:4-5) even as He warned them about the danger of acknowledging false gods (Joshua 23:16). These exclusions were so important that God codified them within His commandments, restricting who (Ex. 20:3) and how (Ex. 20:4-5) His people worshipped. The Lord even declared the customs of false religions as a “delusion” to be rejected because pagan idols will perish with the earth (Jer. 10:6-18). Ultimately, both Israel and Judah succumbed to the pluralistic fodder of their day and faced exile from their land as a result.

When Jesus stepped on to the scene as the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy, He maintained that there is a single path to heaven by preaching an exclusive gospel. Though His invitation was open to all people from all walks of life, the path of redemption was singular rather than multifaceted. Our Savior unapologetically declared, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the



Dooley

Father but through Me. (John 14:6)”

Jesus further cautioned, “The gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it (Matt. 7:13b).” The popular path of the majority, which insists that all religions are viable paths to God, leads to eternal punishment. On this road you can believe anything, or you can believe nothing, usually to the applause of the masses. It is the path of least resistance, without boundaries or restrictions. Just live your truth. Just chart your own course. Just do whatever feels right.

By contrast, the steps toward eternal life “enter through the narrow gate.” (Matt. 7:13a) because according to Christ “the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it (Matt. 7:14).” This way of living limits our devotion solely to the person of Jesus. He is not a good way to heaven, or even the best way. HE IS THE ONLY WAY. The exclusivity of Jesus Christ exposes all other religions as woefully impotent and blindly deceptive.

Clarity like this does not prevent any who desire to walk the path of righteousness from doing so. To the contrary, it points to the true way of salvation for those sincerely seeking to live according to the truth. The problem is not in the clear directive of Scripture, but in our fallen tendency to compromise ideas that are right in order to accommodate those which are wrong. Thus, “few” will find these words helpful, despite their reliability.

The pope’s muddy language, even if unintentionally, leads people down the wrong path, away from God. Thankfully, the Bible’s authors make plain what some religious leaders today do not. “There is salvation in no one else,” says Luke, “for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).” The Apostle Paul echoed the same reality, “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5).” Ultimately, since the name of Jesus is above every other name, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:9-11).

Dr. Adam B. Dooley is pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, and author of *Hope When Life Unravels*. Contact him at adooley@ebcjackson.org. Follow him on Twitter @AdambDooley.

Giving honor where honor is due

Todd E. Brady
Columnist

Some of life’s greatest gifts are the people God puts in your path.

More than a quarter century ago, I met Lee and Lili when they were students at Union University. Some of my fondest memories of that time include Lili rolling our yard on a Halloween night. Also, I once roomed with Lee on a trip to Costa Rica where we talked late into the night as he peppered me with questions about whether Lili was the One. Now I say with a smile on my face . . . yes, she is. She sure is.

On a recent Sunday night, our church gathered to celebrate Lee Tankersley’s 25th anniversary as pastor. In today’s society, a pastor staying at a church for 25 years is indeed rare. Moreover, the genuine respect and love that the church has for Lee and that he has for the church is nothing less than extraordinary. It’s sublime. I’ll even say it is supernatural. Cornerstone Community Church is loved well and loves its pastor with a deep love that I have never seen before and do not have the words to describe.

The church called Lee as pastor when he was only a college student. From a small band of about 40 believers to the seat-saving crowd of more than 400 who gathers today, Lee has faithfully proclaimed God’s Word and loved God’s people. During those 25 years, he married Lili, had four chil-



Lee Tankersley and his wife, Lili, help lead Cornerstone Community Church. (Photo courtesy of Todd Brady)

dren (including adopting from Russia), and eventually earned a Ph.D. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Lee and Lili’s kids are my kids’ ages, and it has been one of the most profound gifts to share our lives together. 1 Thessalonians 2:8 says, “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” When Amy and I think about this verse, we think about Lee and Lili.

The Bible tells us, “Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 5:17). That night, we sought to do that. The double honor we attempted to show was represented in one way by the double-bladed push mower he now calls his own. I’ll never forget that mower being pushed down the aisle! That Sunday night, there were also many belly

laughs mixed with profound tears as brothers and sisters stood up and spoke heartfelt words about what Lee and Lili mean to them.

I have lived long enough to see that an unapproachable line between ecclesiastical leaders and the people of their churches often exists. Some encourage pastors and their wives to “maintain a professional distance” from those in their congregations. “Don’t get too close” they say. Those who subscribe to this philosophy are nice people who attend nice churches with nice buildings and have nice pastors. It can be nice, but it’s hollow.

I reject this way of operating. It’s plastic and disingenuous. It is not supposed to be this way. The Bible shows that church leaders are to have genuine and deep relationships with those in their churches. In addition, members are to have genuine and deep relationships with one another. The church is a genuine community of real and imperfect

people who are pursuing Christ together. The church is far from perfect, but we love each other and we sure are trying to live according to the Bible.

JC Ryle said “The ‘means of grace’ are such as Bible reading, private prayer, and regularly worshiping God in church, wherein one hears the Word taught and participates in the Lord’s Supper. I lay it down as a simple matter of fact that no one who is careless about such things must ever expect to make much progress in sanctification.” Lee, thanks for helping us grow in sanctification.

Lee could have moved “up” the “ecclesiastical ladder,” whatever that means. He could pastor a bigger and more fancy church. He could have a career as a professor in any college or seminary. Instead, he has chosen to be in Jackson, Tennessee and pastor the group of people who now meet together on Pipkin Road. I join a chorus of people who are forever grateful.

God caused our paths to cross. He is allowing us to journey together toward that heavenly city. We are living this life together. We will die together. We will be raised to new life together.

Praise be to our great God.

Todd E. Brady serves as Staff Chaplain and Advanced Funeral Planner at Arrington Funeral Directors. He and his wife, Amy, have five sons. You may write to him at tbrady@afge-mail.net.

MISSION

From 3A

it’s about creating clarity and calibration — and, as a leader, Rob needed to balance the support he was already giving Sam with the right amount of clear challenge. Rob was naturally a supportive leader, always willing to help his team, but he realized that he wasn’t pushing Sam to meet the expectations they’d both agreed upon.

Over the next few months, Rob began having regular, clear conversations with Sam, reminding him of the company’s goals and how his role was vital to achieving them. Rob also began to challenge Sam more directly when he got off track. These

weren’t harsh confrontations but calibrated firm reminders of what needed to be done. The result? Sam started to respond. He stayed more focused, and as Rob’s leadership approach became more balanced, other team members began to step up as well.

By the end of the year, Rob’s shop was back on track, meeting its goals. The stress Rob had been feeling eased, and he even found more time to plan for the future of his business. Most importantly, Rob had peace of mind, knowing he had built a culture of accountability within his team. His wife even mentioned that Rob had

“gotten his laugh back,” a sign that the burdens he had been carrying were starting to lift.

If you’re like Rob, dealing with team members — or even family members — who lack focus or discipline, the answer lies in intentional leadership. Accountability and leading isn’t about being tough or letting things slide; it’s about creating a healthy balance of support and challenge. Find someone who can help you see your blind spots and commit to fostering real growth in those around you. It’s not easy, but the results can be transformative — for your team, your business, and even your own peace of mind.

Dustin contributes monthly on topics around Leadership, Influence, and Relational Intelligence. If you’re a leader who understands that developing your team’s culture is key to growth and profits, connect with Dustin Fenton. He specializes in transforming organizational cultures and maximizing team performance. Reach out at www.pitoncoaching.com or on LinkedIn @DustinFenton and @PitonCoaching. Join Dustin and other culture-focused leaders at the upcoming Leadercore BNA event in Nashville on Dec. 4. Secure a spot today and register at - bit.ly/LeadercoreBNA-Dec24.

PRESCOTT

From 1A

care nearly three decades ago, was a trusted member of Ross’ leadership team as the chief operating officer.

According to Board member and past chairman Phil Bryant, Ross put the succession plan together if he were to pass, and his recommendation to the Board was to make Prescott the next leader for West Tennessee Healthcare.

“Everyone knows this has been a difficult couple of weeks with the loss of JR, and we’ve shed a lot of tears and laughs thinking about the funny things he said and did,” Bryant said when beginning his remarks at the Board meeting Tuesday evening. “I can’t come up

with the words to thank JR for his service to this organization.

“But he expected us to carry on as charged, and we are honoring that tonight.”

Bryant said Ross loved West Tennessee Healthcare and knew better than anyone the type of person it takes to lead an organization this big with 7,500 employees.

“JR recommended to us that Tina Prescott succeed him as CEO,” Bryant said. “She’s been here 20 years, and this Board has had the opportunity to watch her grow from chief nurse officer to chief operating officer.

“I’ve told the Board privately, and I’ll say

publicly how proud I am of her and how she’s grown since being named chief executive officer and how she’s stepped up big time in the last couple years as JR has been ill in many different ways to help in JR’s place. It’s my honor and privilege now to recommend that we adopt the resolution making Tina our new president and chief executive officer of West Tennessee Healthcare.”

The motion was passed unanimously, and everyone in the boardroom gave Prescott a standing ovation in welcoming her to her new position.

“The first thing I’ll do is pull a JR and say that’s enough of that,”

Prescott said. “It’s been a difficult couple weeks as we’ve dealt with his passing, but I’m honored the Board would approve me for this role.

“I was proud to be a part of his leadership team. He loved each and every one of us and held us accountable, and we loved him for that.

“We’ve got a great team of more than 7,500 people here who put aside their own personal issues every day they come to work for the good of those who come into our doors needing our help. And we’ll continue to do that going forward.”

Brandon Shields, brandon@jacksonpost.news

Obituaries

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James Ronald Patrick

1944 – 2024

James Ronald “Ronnie” Patrick, born on February 20, 1944, in Jackson, Tenn., passed away peacefully at his home on Sept. 20, 2024. He was 80 years old.

He leaves behind a loving family, including his three children with Gwendolyn Cato Chilton: Brandon (Lisa) Patrick, Stacey (Tom) Turnbow, and Jason (Christi) Patrick. He is also survived by his 8 grandchildren: Sarah (Alex) Petrone, Caroline Patrick, Ashtyn Turnbow, Kelsey Turnbow, Alexi Turnbow, George Patrick, Vivian (Daniel) Ryan, and James Patrick. He is also survived by his long-time companion and special friend Lyda Kay Ferree.

He was a graduate of the 1962 class of Jackson Southside High School, where he was voted Most Popular Boy of his Senior Class, as well as “Beau of the FHA”, 2-Time President of FFA and 4-H Club, Chairman of FTA, and Junior Rotarian. He also was an accomplished athlete, serving as rotating captain of the Jackson Southside Hawks basketball team and was a member of the football team. He attended The University of Tennessee and Memphis State University, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

Professionally, James owned his own professional recruiting firm - James Patrick International in Brentwood, Tenn. He was widely respected as an accomplished executive recruiter in the Nashville area. He was also a guest speaker at several industry events and made appearances on nationally televised shows such as the 700 Club and PTL Club. After retirement, he found enjoyment in travel, ballroom dancing, genealogy, poetry, watching sporting events, hiking, and gardening. He was proud that all of his children went on to receive college degrees, as well as the ongoing educational and professional achievements of his grandchildren.

James was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Truman and Kathleen Patrick as well as his granddaughter Gwendolyn Grace Patrick. He was the 5th of 6 children that were raised in the Bemis area. He was a man of faith that believed in Jesus, a member of St George’s Episcopal Church in Nashville, and worked hard to ensure his family was immersed in an environment where they could achieve their personal potential. He was loved by many and will be missed dearly.

The Memorial Service for James will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 3 p.m. in the Chapel of Arrington Funeral Directors. Visitation with family and friends will begin at 2 p.m. and continue until the service time at 3 p.m.

Marinell Day Bradberry

1935 – 2024

Marinell Day Bradberry, born on Feb. 1, 1935, in Greenfield, Tenn., passed away peacefully on Sept. 22, 2024, in Lakeland, Fla., at the age of 89.

On Jan. 1, 1954, she married the love of her life, Doyle F. Bradberry, beginning a journey that spanned more than four decades. Together, they owned and operated Empire Marble Company on Airways Boulevard in Jackson, for 29 years.

A woman of deep faith, Marinell was an active member of Bethel Baptist Church in Lakeland, FL. She previously worshipped with her family at First Baptist Church Humboldt and Fruitland Baptist Church, where her commitment to God and community was evident to all who knew her.

For the past 13 years, Marinell was a dedicated dialysis patient at DaVita Dialysis, attending with perfect consistency.

Marinell is survived by her beloved children, Teresa Kay Patterson (Johnny) and Donald Frank Bradberry (Renee); her grandchildren, Kimberly Yarbrough (Brandon), Michael Bradberry, Sara Bradberry, and Ashley Sagardia (Gabe); and her cherished great-grandchildren, Ethan Henry and Coral McCann. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Dillard Day and Sophronia Paralee Dunn Day; and her siblings, Nina Day Cain, Tommy Day, Clois Day, Odis Day, Kenneth Day, and Lloyd Day.

A celebration of Marinell’s life will be held (today) Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the North Chapel of George A. Smith and Sons with entombment following in the mausoleum at Highland Memorial Gardens, Jackson. The family will begin receiving friends at 10 a.m.



Billie Ruth Prudhon

1943 – 2024

Billie Ruth Prudhon, “Rutie” to her family, a beloved educator and cherished family member, passed away peacefully on Sept. 18, 2024 in Jackson, Tenn., surrounded by her loved ones in her home. Born on April 8, 1943 in Clarksdale, Miss., Ruth’s spirit shined brightly throughout her 81 years of life, leaving a legacy that will long be remembered.

She was born to the late Hugh Tabb McDade and Joadine Middleton McDade and preceded in death by her brother David “Butch” McDade (Leslie). Ruth earned her BA degree in Elementary Education from Maryville College, and a MA degree from the University of Memphis in Education Administration. Ruth’s journey in education began in 1965, when she took her first steps into the classroom as a first-grade teacher in Knox County. Her commitment to nurturing young minds was evident from the start, as she became one of the pioneering teachers involved in the Head Start program.

With an unyielding passion for education, Ruth made another significant move in 1972, this time to Parkway Village Preschool, and then to Buntyn Presbyterian School in Memphis. The pinnacle of her administrative career came as the Middle School Director of the University School of Jackson, a role she embraced until her retirement in 2007. Left to cherish her memory is her loving devoted husband of 63 years, Rolland A. “Red” Prudhon, Jr.; cherished children, Rolland A. “Rusty” Prudhon, III, Pamela Burnette (Chuck), and Patrick Prudhon (Sarah); grandchildren, Brendan Day Wrice (Allison), Mackenzie Cade Wright, Margaret “Maggie” Grace Burnette, Lillian Ruth Burnette, and Etta Louise Prudhon; sister, Jane Monroe (Benny); nephew Gabriel McDade; and nieces, Missy Dowell, Amy Monroe, and Caralie McDade.

Ruth’s legacy is one of love, dedication, kindness, and a steadfast commitment to uplifting those around her. Ruth Prudhon will forever be remembered as a beacon of light in the lives of all who had the privilege to know her.

A Celebration of Life gathering will take place at the Green Frog Farm, 148 Green Frog Lane, Bells, TN 38006 (on Highway 412) on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, from 3-5 p.m.

Norma Ora Patrick Callier

1961 - 2024

Norma was born Nov. 28, 1961 to Fred and Mary Patrick in Madison County (Adair). She attended Pope Elementary, Northside Junior High and graduated with honors from Northside High School. She received a scholarship to the University of Knoxville and earned an Engineering degree. Upon graduation, she became employed by the Jackson Sun newspaper and the City of Jackson.

She was a member of White Stone Baptist Church.

She departed her earthly life on Sept. 12, 2024. She was preceded in death by her Mother and Father, her son Bryan, ex-husband Thurston Callier, sister Charlotte Barnett and nephew Aaron Dupree Barnett.

She leaves to Cherish her memories - her sisters, Rose C. Isabell, Cecelia Patrick, Andrea King, nieces; Michelle Jones, Falecia Goolsby (Tyrone), Kawana Isabell, Mary Hansbrough. She also leaves her nephews; Henry Barnett Jr, John Curtis Isabell, Gregory Allenking and Trey Hansbrough to cherish her memories. In addition to her immediate family, she also leaves great nieces and great nephews and our brother-in-law Henry Barnett.

A visitation will be held Friday, Sept. 27 from 6-7 p.m. at Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Jackson. A Celebration of Life will be held at noon on Saturday, Sept. 28 at St. John No. 1 Baptist Church, Jackson. Burial will follow in the Church’s cemetery.



James “Jimmy” Thomas

1955 - 2024

James “Jimmy” L. Thomas was born on Nov. 13, 1955, in Henderson, Tenn., to the late Culus and Precious Thomas. To this union he was one six children. He departed this life peacefully on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, in his home surrounded by family.

He accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at Beech Spring Baptist Church where he served as a dedicated member and trustee.

He met and married the late Mary “Rita” Katherine Thomas, and together they raised three children. A dedicated, hard-working father and husband, he retired from Leroy Somer after 31 years but continued to work as a custodian at Beech Springs Baptist Church.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and two siblings Robert Thomas and Priscilla “Diane” Bumpass.

He leaves to cherish his memory: His children - Celeste (Donald) Geanes, Brian (Ginny) Thomas, and Jarris (Latosha) Thomas; one sister - Beverlyn (Richard) Fuller; two brothers Marcus Thomas and Eric (Denise) Thomas; Grandchildren - Sacha (Britten) Trice, Cami (Tremaine) McKinney, Cameron Taylor, Heaven (Hunter) Ross, Alayna Felker, Kaleb Thomas, Bryce Thomas, I’Yonna McKinnie, Jaeston Thomas, Amiyah Thomas; Great grandchildren - Brendan Sims, Harmani McKinney, Mason Ross; Honorary grandchildren - Chris (Christina) Gilbert, Tyler Walker, and Chevron (Alexis) Johnson, and a host of other relatives and friends.

A Visitation will be held Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Next Level Church in Henderson. A Celebration of Life will take place at noon at the church, followed by burial at Beech Springs Church Cemetery in Jacks Creek, Tenn.



Susan Elizabeth Wolfe Britner

1955 – 2024

Susan Elizabeth Britner, 69, passed away peacefully on Sept. 18, 2024 at home surrounded by her loving family.

Born on May 14, 1955, in Sterling, Ill., to the late Edgar Earl Wolfe and Rose Leah Mathis, Susan lived a life full of warmth, love, and dedication to her family. She was a graduate of North East High School in St. Petersburg, Fla., before attending Tampa Business School. Susan is survived by her beloved husband, Jerry Malcolm Britner; her daughters, Tamica Faith Simmons and Kimberly Ann Hall (Ron); her stepson, Daniel Lee Miller (April); ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, all of whom she adored. She is also survived by her three brothers: Mark Wolfe, David Wolfe (Donna), and Tim Wolfe.

A service to celebrate Susan’s life was held on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024, in the North Chapel of George A. Smith and Sons with burial following in the Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery at Parker’s Crossroads



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Local News

Fall in the Gardens Schedule: Plant Sale and Lecture Series

Thursday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. – Enjoy lectures from guest speakers Dr. Jared Barnes, horticulture associate professor at Stephen F. Austin State University, and Shalena Durkot, horticulturist with UT Gardens, Crossville. Attendees can also participate in tours of the gardens and AgResearch Center, enjoy local vendors and food trucks, and partake in the first day of the Fall Plant Sale. The community is also invited to a community potluck dinner hosted by Madison County Master Gardeners that evening.

Friday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Shop the second day of the Fall Plant Sale. The full plant list is scheduled to be released by Sept. 26.

Event Schedule Thursday, Oct. 3: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

8:45 a.m. – Master Gardeners begin selling coffee and breakfast
9 a.m. – Walking tour of UT Gardens, Jackson (Meet in the main parking lot)
10:30 a.m. – Guest lecture – Shalena Durkot (UT Gardens Coordinator, Crossville)

DISCOVER THE PLATEAU

Join Shalena, the Coordinator for our sister garden in Crossville, to learn about the history, evolution, and challenges of growing plants on the Cumberland Plateau.

11:30 a.m. – Lunch (Food trucks will be on-site)

12:30 p.m. – Guest lecture – Dr. Jared Barnes (Stephen F. Austin State University)

THE WILD SOUTH: NATURALISTIC PLANTING AND ECOLOGICAL DESIGN

Discover the power of ecological principles in crafting sustainable, resilient gardens suited to the Southern landscape. This talk will guide you through site assessment, understanding local ecology, and designing with nature in mind. Learn how to implement naturalistic planting strate-

gies that enhance biodiversity and withstand regional challenges. Whether you're a novice or expert, this session offers insights for creating vibrant, eco-friendly spaces.

2 – 6 p.m. – Fall Plant Sale

3 – 5 p.m. – Wagon tours of AgResearch Center

4, 4:30, 5, & 5:30 p.m. – Demonstrations by Madison County Master Gardeners (see below)

Kokedama Creation with Madison County Horticulture Extension Agent Mary Glenys Espey – Learn the art of kokedama, a beautiful Japanese gardening technique that transforms plants into stunning moss-covered living sculptures.

Nature Printing with Madison County Master Gardener Juanita Barrow – Join us as we explore the beautiful designs of nature through the creation of prints using natural objects like leaves and flowers from our gardens.

5 p.m. – Walking tour of UT Gardens, Jackson (Meet in the main parking lot)

6:30 p.m. – Guest lecture – Dr. Jared Barnes (Stephen F. Austin State University)

PLANT EXTROVERTS! WONDERFUL WOODIES AND PRAISEWORTHY PERENNIALS

We all can recognize plants with “extroverted personalities.” They stop us dead in our tracks, they are hot items in the garden center, and they bring flavor and spice to landscapes like few other plants can. Want to meet a few more?!? Then come to this session where Jared Barnes will introduce you to woodies and perennials that come to life through their incredible traits and leave a lasting first impression. Whether its color, form, bloom, foliage, fragrance, or a whole host of other noteworthy attributes, these hardy characters are sure to stand out in your landscape!

6:30 p.m. – Dinner provided by Madison



Horticulture experts and guest presenters will discuss a variety of topics related to home gardening and landscape design. Photo by T. Cronin, courtesy UTIA.

Fall in the Gardens set for Oct. 3-4 at UT Gardens, Jackson

Attendees will enjoy lectures, tours, fall plant sale and more

Tate Cronin UTIA Marketing and Communications

The University of Tennessee Gardens, Jackson, is hosting their annual Fall in the Gardens plant sale and lecture series on Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center.

On the first day, participants will enjoy presentations from guest lecturers, guided garden tours, demonstrations by Madison County Master Gardeners, wagon tours of the AgResearch Center, local vendors and food trucks and the beginning

of the fall plant sale with hundreds of varieties of plants available for purchase. The second day of the event will feature the fall plant sale only.

This year's guest speakers include Jared Barnes and Shalena Durkot who will present on various topics related to gardening and landscape design. Barnes is a horticulture professor at Stephen F. Austin State University and host of The Plantastic Podcast, while Durkot is the coordinator of UT Gardens, Crossville, with years of experience cultivating natural displays for public enjoyment.

“Designing your garden and selecting the right plants for your needs is one of the most important parts

of home horticulture,” says Jason Reeves, research associate and curator of UT Gardens, Jackson. “Both of our lecturers have extensive experience creating beautiful displays, and we are excited to share their expertise with attendees.”

Mary Glenys Espey, horticulture Extension agent at UT-TSU Extension Madison County, says she will be partnering with Madison County Master Gardeners to host visual demonstrations as well. “For the first time, we will be showcasing topics such as how to create natural artwork and how to utilize Japanese gardening techniques. We are excited to have the community come out for another free, festive and

educational event.”

UT Gardens, Jackson, is part of the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center located at 605 Airways Blvd. in Jackson. A list of plants for sale will be available Sept. 26. For the full Fall in the Gardens schedule including lecture times, visit westtn.tennessee.edu/other-events.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture comprises the Herbert College of Agriculture, UT College of Veterinary Medicine, UT AgResearch and UT Extension. Through its land-grant mission of teaching, research and outreach, the Institute touches lives and provides Real Life. Solutions. to Tennesseans and beyond. utia.tennessee.edu.



Fall in the Gardens attendees get a chance to take home flowers, shrubs and perennials grown at UT Gardens, Jackson, for their home gardens perfect for the autumn season. Photo by T. Cronin, courtesy UTIA.

County Master Gardeners

Friday, Oct. 4: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Fall Plant Sale (Full plant list will be released by Sept. 26)

MIA/POW soldiers honored at Courthouse

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

The third Friday of September has been the official day for our nation to recognize prisoners of war and those missing in action since Jimmy Carter was President.

Ever since, every President has signed a proclamation ensuring that day continues to be recognized as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

The Madison County Courthouse was the site of a local recognition.

“We’ll take every occasion we can to remember those that have served or are serving in our armed forces,” said County Mayor or A.J. Massey. “This day serves as the day to acknowledge the resiliency of the individuals who have been prisoners of war or have been missing in action and the resiliency of their families who sometimes never find a



The Missing Man Table sits in front of the assembled crowd in front of the Madison County Courthouse during the recognition ceremony of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. (BRANDON SHIELDS/The Jackson Post)

final answer about their loved one.

“The sacrifice of all those involved will never be forgotten.”

Jackson Mayor Scott Conger was on hand to read a joint proclamation.

“All Americans should acknowledge the debt we owe and the pain and bitterness of war experienced by those still awaiting the return of their loved ones,” Conger read from the proclamation.

After that, there was a presentation of the Missing Man Table, which is full of symbolism for military members to remember those that haven’t returned from conflict overseas.

According to statements read by Larry Newsome, a local Vietnam veteran, official for the West Tennessee Veterans Coalition

See MIA/POW, Page 12A

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number 57PRI-2024-PR-19763**

Estate of, **ELIZABETH MURRAY RICE**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on September 10 of 2024 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of **ELIZABETH MURRAY RICE**, who died June 9, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Madison County Probate Court of Madison County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice of Creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A);

or (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

MEGAN RICE LATTA
Personal Representative
9/10/2024
JOSEPH PATTERSON
Attorney
9/10/2024
09/19/2024-09/26/2024

**Madison County Probate Court
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number 57PRI-2024-PR-19771**

Estate of, **JOHN BURTON MARSH, JR.**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on September 11 of 2024 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of **JOHN BURTON MARSH, JR.**, who died August 7, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Madison County Probate Court of Madison County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice of Creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

LOLA WARREN MARSH
Personal Representative
9/11/2024
WILLIAM H. SHACKELFORD, JR.
Attorney
9/11/2024
09/19/2024-09/26/2024

ELECTION NOTICE

NOVEMBER 5, 2024
STATE & FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION & MUNICIPAL
ELECTION FOR THE CITY OF THREE WAY
EARLY VOTING DATES: OCTOBER 16-OCTOBER 31, 2024

EARLY VOTING HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00AM-4:00PM
Tuesday 11:00AM-6:00PM----Extended Hours
Saturday 9:00AM-12:00PM

EARLY VOTING LOCATION: UT AG BUILDING
309 NORTH PARKWAY, JACKSON, TN 38305

PHONE: 731-660-1796

**Last day to REGISTER to vote for this ELECTION:
OCTOBER 7TH, 2024**

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00AM- 4PM MONDAY -FRIDAY

**Federal or Tennessee state government issued photo ID is required to vote, unless an exception applies. College student IDs will not be accepted. To learn more about the new law and its exceptions, please call the Madison County Election Commission, 731-660-1796, or visit GoVoteTN.com visit our web site at www.madisonelections.com to view the sample ballot.

Elderly voters or voters with a disability assigned to vote in precincts wherein the polling place is not accessible may vote at the election commission office stating that such voter's assigned voting location, to the best of the voter's knowledge, does not comply with the provisions of Public Law 98-435 of the 98th Congress. The affidavit must be received by the county election commission not less than ten (10) days prior to the first election in which the voter plans to vote at the election commission office. AFFIDAVIT must be received by October 26, 2024. As an alternative, an elderly or handicapped voter assigned to vote in a precinct where the polling place is inaccessible **MAY VOTE** during the **EARLY VOTING PERIOD**.

Madison County Election Commission
1981 Hollywood Dr., Suite 200
Jackson, TN 38305
Phone: 731-660-1796 Fax: 731-660-1824
Mike Bledsoe, Chairman, Wendy Martin, Secretary, Tim Wilson, Charles Byrd & Lovette Brooks Commissioners,
Lori K. Lott, Administrator of Elections

**Madison County Probate Court
110 Irby St., Room 102
Jackson, Tn 38301
731-988-3025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number 57PRI-2024-PR-19772**

Estate of, **MARY ELIZABETH HICKS**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on September 12 of 2024 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of **MARY ELIZABETH HICKS**, who died APRIL 22, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Madison County Probate Court of Madison County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice of Creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

JERRY ANTHONY HICKS
Personal Representative
9/12/2024
ANGELA SNIDER
Attorney
9/12/2024
09/19/2024-09/26/2024

**Madison County Probate Court
110 Irby St., Room 102
Jackson, Tn 38301
731-988-3025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number 57PRI-2024-PR-19775**

Estate of, **CORNELIA HARDY MULLINS**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on September 12 of 2024 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of **CORNELIA HARDY MULLINS**, who died August 25, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Madison County Probate Court of Madison County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice of Creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

JAMES PATRICK MULLINS
Personal Representative
9/16/2024
C. MARK DONAHOE
Attorney
9/16/2024
09/19/2024-09/26/2024

**Madison County Probate Court
110 Irby St., Room 102
Jackson, Tn 38301
731-988-3025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number 57PRI-2024-PR-19770**

Estate of, **MARY ANNE DARBY JOHNSON**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on September 16 of 2024 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of **MARY ANNE DARBY JOHNSON**, who died August 8, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Madison County Probate Court of Madison County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice of Creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

MILLTON EDWARD DARBY
Personal Representative
9/16/2024
SARA E. BARNETT
Attorney
9/16/2024
09/19/2024-09/26/2024

**Madison County Probate Court
110 Irby St., Room 102
Jackson, Tn 38301
731-988-3025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number 57PRI-2024-PR-19776**

Estate of, **J. KENNETH MARSTON**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on September 16 of 2024 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of **J. KENNETH MARSTON**, who died June 11, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Madison County Probate Court of Madison County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice of Creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

J. KENNETH MARSTON, JR.
Personal Representative
9/16/2024
NANCY L. CHOATE
Attorney
9/16/2024
09/19/2024-09/26/2024

**Madison County Probate Court
110 Irby St., Room 102
Jackson, Tn 38301
731-988-3025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number 57PRI-2024-PR-19766**

Estate of, **BILLY WAYNE COLEMAN**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on September 16 of 2024 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of **BILLY WAYNE COLEMAN**, who died July 9, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Madison County Probate Court of Madison County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice of Creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

JANIS V. COLEMAN
Personal Representative
9/16/2024
NATHAN B. PRIDE
Attorney
9/16/2024
09/19/2024-09/26/2024

**Madison County Probate Court
110 Irby St., Room 102
Jackson, Tn 38301
731-988-3025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
As Required by TCA §30-2-306
Case Number 57PRI-2024-PR-19780**

Estate of, **BERTHA WILMA SISSON**, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on September 17 of 2024 Letters Testamentary (or of Administration as the case may be) in respect of the estate of **BERTHA WILMA SISSON**, who died March 3, 2024, were issued to the undersigned by the Madison County Probate Court of Madison County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above-named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice of Creditors, if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1)(A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

DANNY FRANKLIN SISSO
Personal Representative
9/17/2024
NANCY L. CHOATE
Attorney
9/17/2024
09/19/2024-09/26/2024

Puzzles

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Separate with an instrument
5. State clearly
11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
14. Broad in scope
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Caps
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Checked
25. One-sided
27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
31. Potted plants
34. We all have one
35. Lake north of the Kalahari
38. Unidentified flying object
39. Aging persons
41. Small amount
42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental waist box
45. Officials
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. Extensive, treeless plains

55. Your consciousness of your own identity
56. Consumer advocate Ralph
60. Notable Spanish sports club
61. Body part
62. One's responsiveness
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
66. Muslim ruler title
67. Unhappy
68. Gradually disappeared
69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed
2. Water sprite
3. Ones to look up to
4. Monetary units
5. We all have one
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
8. Outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Uncomfortable feelings
11. Cross to form an X
12. Remove
13. Some pages are dog-__

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | | | | 15 | | | | | | | 16 | | |
| 17 | | | | 18 | | | | | | | 19 | | |
| 20 | | | | | 21 | | | | | | 22 | | |
| 23 | | | | 24 | | | 25 | | | 26 | | | |
| | | | 27 | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | | 34 | | | | | 35 | | 36 | 37 | |
| 38 | | | | 39 | | | | | 40 | | 41 | | |
| 42 | | | 43 | | | 44 | | | | 45 | | | |
| | | 46 | | | | 47 | | | | 48 | | | |
| 49 | 50 | | | | | | | | 51 | | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 | | | | 56 | | 57 | 58 | 59 | | 60 | | | |
| 61 | | | | 62 | | | | | | 63 | | | |
| 64 | | | | 65 | | | | | | | 66 | | |
| 67 | | | | 68 | | | | | | | 69 | | |

18. Capital of Ukraine
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Eighth month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city
33. Observed
36. Irate
37. Travelers need them
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. Form of "to be"
45. Women
47. Inspire with love
48. Think Japanese ankle sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The lead dancer: __

- ballerina
53. Protein involved in motion
54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
57. Popular 1920s style art __
58. __ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to rest

Horoscopes

- ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**
Even though you told yourself you'll just suck it up and get through the week, you're having a change of heart, Aries. Some modifications are necessary to navigate the waters.
- TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**
Taurus, all bets are off this week, especially if you've been smoothing over your emotions to get along with someone close by. All true feelings are bound to come to the surface.
- GEMINI - May 22/June 21**
This week you may not be feeling like yourself, Gemini. Low energy have you feeling out of sorts. Spend some time with a close friend to get things back on track.
- CANCER - June 22/July 22**
Cancer, your friends always have your back, but this week there is a disruption in your crew. Someone isn't playing nice, but a few words from you will smooth things over quickly.
- LEO - July 23/Aug 23**
You are anxious to get started on an exciting project, Leo. Others on your team may need a dose of inspiration. It could be up to you to motivate the troops.
- VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**
Virgo, you made a commitment to keep things toned down. Enjoy the slower pace and take note of how the lack of hustle and bustle suits you.
- LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**
Normally you're satisfied to let someone else take the lead and make all of the decisions, Libra. This week you might need to be the one taking a leadership role.
- SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22**
A surprising bit of information may be brought to your attention, Scorpio. You might be up for a promotion or an exciting change could be coming in your personal life.
- SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**
Don't stop now when you are so close to the finish line, Sagittarius. It may be a busy week ahead, but you will reap the rewards of your labors. Remain patient.
- CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20**
Take inventory of your romantic relationship, Capricorn. You might need to put in a little extra effort if things haven't been as smooth as you would like. Don't give up on this.
- AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18**
Aquarius, you are working at keeping everyone on the same page. Continue to emphasize the importance of teamwork. Others notice and appreciate your efforts.
- PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20**
It is not possible to make it all the way through your to-do list this week, so plan on some carryover to the next, Pisces. Space out your work so you don't get too overwhelmed.

FALL SEASON WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- APPLES
- AUTUMNAL
- CHESTNUT
- CHILLY
- COOLER
- CORN
- CORNUCOPIA
- COZY
- CRISP
- EQUINOX
- FALL
- FIREPLACE
- FOGGY
- FOLIAGE
- GOURD
- HARVEST
- HARVESTING
- HAY
- LEAF
- OCTOBER
- PUMPKIN
- RAKE
- SCARECROW
- SWEATER

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

SUDOKU

Here is how it works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- SEPTEMBER 29
Kevin Durant, Athlete (36)
- SEPTEMBER 30
Monica Bellucci, Actress (60)
- OCTOBER 1
Brie Larson, Actress (35)
- OCTOBER 2
Sting, Singer (73)
- OCTOBER 3
Gwen Stefani, Singer (55)
- OCTOBER 4
Lil Mama, Rapper (35)
- OCTOBER 5
Travis Kelce, Athlete (35)

Dumpster Rentals
Savannah, TN

Call or text Jason
731-733-8256

RENFROE
LAWNCARE
731-733-8256

Owner: Jason Renfroe
rvaluesprayfoam731@gmail.com

Community Calendar



Local professionals mingle during last month's Business After Hours event at Leaders Credit Union in South Jackson. (Photo courtesy of The Greater Jackson Chamber)



The fourth annual Clark Shaw Memorial Prayer Walk will happen Saturday on Old Hickory Boulevard. Get a breakfast biscuit and coffee from the Old Country Store and then walk the sidewalk down Old Hickory praying over the neighborhoods. (Photo courtesy of Old Country Store)

Your guide to what's happening in Jackson over the next couple weeks

Sept. 26 Tee-Up for Autism

West Tennessee Hearing and Speech Center will host its annual golf tournament that was rescheduled from Sept. 12. The tournament is at Humboldt Country Club with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and shotgun start at 1 p.m. For more info call their office at 731-668-6076 or email at rmaxwell@wthsc.com.

Bites & Insights

Join The Greater Jackson Chamber (197 Auditorium Street in Downtown Jackson) for Bites and Insights, educational sessions for small businesses. Connect with fellow small business leaders who understand the challenges you face and gain valuable insights from industry experts on improving your business. Lunch included. Session Topic: Working On, Not in Your Business. Speaker: Kevin Adelsberger, Owner

Adelsberger Marketing. Sponsored by: Adelsberger Marketing.

Business After Hours

This is one of The Greater Jackson Chamber's biggest networking events. This month's edition is sponsored and hosted by RE/MAX Realty Source (200 Stonebridge Blvd. in North Jackson). Make contacts. Network. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres. Free to attend. No advance registration.

Rock and Roll Cornhole

Madison County CASA will host its annual cornhole tournament at the West Tennessee Farmers' Market (91 New Market Street in Downtown Jackson). The event is sponsored by Tennessee Industrial Printing Services and begins at 6 p.m.

Sept. 27 Kids and Family Resource Fair

North Park (210 Demonbreun Drive in North Jackson) will be the site of the 2024 Kids



The Starlight Symphony is a chance for thousands of people to listen to The Jackson Symphony perform on the lawn of the First Presbyterian Church on Saturday. (Photo courtesy of The Jackson Symphony)

and Family Resource Fair presented by Tennessee Department of Human Services from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Parents and children are invited to discover health, wellness, safety and other social sup-

ports and information at the Family Resource Fair hosted by the Paternity Program at the Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS).

This free event is open to the public and will include baby supplies and door prizes give aways from non-profits and agencies that serve families (while supplies last).

About the Paternity Program at the Tennessee Department of Human Services:

The Paternity Program at the TDHS helps parents secure their children's futures by establishing paternity. This step enables children to qualify for social security, veterans' benefits, inheritance rights, life and health insurance, Child Support, and other assistance based on parental relationships.

Sept. 28 Clark Shaw Memorial Prayer Walk

The fourth annual prayer walk presented by Casey Jones' Village, Old Country Store and Pastor Garry Martin will happen at Home Outlet (756 Old Hickory Boulevard in Midtown Jackson) at 8:30 a.m.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's isn't stopping. Neither is Jackson. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. The Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Register at alz.org/

JacksonTNWalk

Fall Game Festival

Canada's Collectible Games (33 carriage House Drive Suite B) is having an outside Fall Game festival. They will have games, food trucks, content creators, contests, Pikachu and prizes. Games include Giant Catan, Giant Chess, Giant Checkers and more. There will be pictures with Pikachu, a kids Pokémon costume contest, and a Cosplay contest to name a few. Don't miss out on all this fun that lasts from noon until 5 p.m.

Starlight Symphony

Starlight Symphony is coming up on Sept. 28, and in many ways, it's the biggest event of the Symphony's season.

This year's Starlight Symphony will celebrate a decade with Shannon as the Symphony's Maestro and they'll go back over a few of his favorite moments from the past 10 years in Jackson.

The concert is set to begin at 7 p.m. on the lawn of First Presbyterian Church on Highland Avenue between Skyline Drive and North Parkway.

Oct. 1 National Night Out

National Night Out is an event aimed at enhancing crime and drug prevention in local anti-crime programs, rallying support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and building neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. National Night Out also sends a message to criminals, showing that neighborhoods are united and determined to reclaim their communities from criminal activity. This year's National Night Out for Jackson will be held on Tuesday, October 1, from 5-8 p.m. The Jackson Police Department is asking you and your neighborhood to participate by turning on your porch lights that evening and hosting a block party in your neighborhood. If residents are unable to find a block party, they are invited to join the Jackson Police Department at 234 Institute Street for a night of food, fun, and fellowship. For additional information, contact the JPD Public Information Officer at (731) 217-1689 or sgraham@jacksontn.gov. You can now register to host a block party at https://www.jacksontn.gov/.../police/citizen_engagement under the National Night Out tab. Registration is open.

Oct. 7 The Charlotte Cup

Heaven's Cradle presents The Charlotte Cup 2-man scramble golf tournament at the Jackson Country Club. Proceeds to be raised for Heaven's Cradle and the establishment of a new Butterfly Room at the new Baptist Memorial/Jackson Clinic Outpatient Surgery Center. This room, which is nicknamed "The Charlotte Room" in memory of Charlotte Doster, will provide a place of solitude and comfort for women and families as they prepare to undergo a D&C procedure after miscarriage. Tournament fees cover greens fees, breakfast and lunch, snacks, giveaways and tournament prizes. The event starts at 8 a.m.

Oct. 10 Tacos, Tecates and Scholarships

Jackson State Community College Foundation will host the third annual Tacos and Tecate event from 6-9 p.m. to support student scholarships. A contribution of \$45 provides an enjoyable evening of music, tacos, and two drink tickets at Skillet Junction (575 South Royal Street in Downtown Jackson).

Oct. 3 Tracy Lawrence concert

Tracy Lawrence was one of the biggest names in country music in the 1990s.

With hits like "Alibis," "Time Marches On" and "These Sticks and Stones," fans are sure to have a memorable night singing along with his standard songs. Tickets are available online at Ticketmaster. Event starts at 7 p.m.

Oct. 4 Hub City Flea Market

The Hub City Flea Market is held the first weekend (Friday/Saturday/Sunday) of each month at the Jackson Fairgrounds. For more information, visit Jackson's Hub City Flea Market Facebook page. Hours for the flea market each weekend are 5-8 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Oct. 5 Jackson Brew Fest

Forever Communications and Budweiser present the 2024 Jackson Brew Fest. This event is set to take place from 1-5 p.m. at the Jackson Rockabilly Baseball Stadium with VIP entry at noon. With an impressive array of craft beers, home brews, and a vibrant marketplace for local artisans, the Jackson Brew Fest promises an unforgettable experience for beer enthusiasts and art lovers alike. This is a 21+ event. Tickets are available online at ticketleap.com.

Oct. 7 The Charlotte Cup

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ANSWER: Level: Intermediate

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ANSWER: Level: Advanced

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Compiled by Brandon Shields

Local News

Black entrepreneurs accuse state funding boards of discrimination

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

Reggie Carrick and Lamar Hobson are a couple of small business owners in the local area who have petitioned and protested against the Northwest and Southwest Workforce Boards.

Carrick is the owner of All-Star Academy, which is based in Memphis but has had a Jackson location for three years that trains students how to drive forklifts in the warehouse environment.

Hobson is the owner of Barber School-1, which is a school to train barbers based in Jackson.

Carrick and Hobson have petitioned the workforce boards and Workforce Innovations to be awarded more funding for their students than they're currently being awarded.

They made a case for themselves when they and some of their students staged weekly protests at the American Job Center, which is under

the umbrella of the state workforce development boards, in East Jackson.

"All these schools like Jackson State and TCAT are getting funding for training, and other places like Ben Ferguson's place, they're getting funding for training and placement, but we're not," Carrick said. "I don't have these problems in Memphis. I get the funding I need easily in Memphis, but for some reason it's a lot harder here in Jackson. Why is that?"

On Sept. 12, the Northwest and Southwest Boards had their annual meeting together at The Greater Jackson Chamber. Carrick, Hobson and some of their students were on hand for the meeting.

The purpose of the Boards is to identify and vote to allocate state and federal funding for workforce development in rural West Tennessee based on needs that would have the greatest impact on the local area.

During public com-

ments at the beginning of the meeting, Hobson, one of his students and Carrick all spoke for nearly a total of 10 minutes with repeated accusations of racism against the organization and both boards as a whole.

"We've got two Black-owned businesses here asking for funds to help a generation of people get jobs and change their families' lives, and why are we left out?" Hobson asked. "I look around the room. There are 75 people, and I counted about nine of us in here that are Black."

Hobson's student, who is white, said when he went into the American Job Center to get assistance in placement while the schools were protesting, he had an easier time getting help than his Black classmates.

Carrick, called for the resignation of Jennifer Bane, the executive director of the workforce development, Ferguson, who's chair of the southwest board and Decatur County Mayor Mike

Creasy, who's the chief local elected official on the Board, "because y'all are doing nothing for the community ... just yourselves."

Once public comments were over, Northwest Board Chair Jimmy Williamson called the meeting to order and Bane gave her report to both boards for the previous year. After her presentation was finished, Bane asked the board if anyone had any questions.

She didn't specify that to the board, so Hobson said he had some questions and asked more questions about funding and why Barber School-1 wasn't getting funding. After a couple of rounds of those questions, Williamson said Hobson was out of order, and Hobson and Carrick said Bane was the one who recognized Hobson.

Carrick and Hobson had already asked for more funding and to be placed on the Board with neither happening. They then appealed to the state and Commissioner

Deneice Thomas of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

"You've appealed to the state and Commissioner Thomas, so the situation is out of our hands now," Ferguson said.

As tensions rose in the confrontation, Ferguson suggested there be another conversation among the leaders with Carrick and Hobson after the meeting once they'd completed their business. While tensions were still high, a call came from the building without the knowledge of most in the room to Jackson Police Department asking for their presence in case tensions continued to rise.

Carrick found out when he stepped out into The Chamber's lobby to take a phone call and he said there were nine JPD officers out there.

Bane, Ferguson and other officials tried to have conversations and explain the data-driven rationale behind the amount of funding Carrick and Hobson's

schools are allowed each year – seven people for Carrick and two for Hobson.

"There are 42 positions open right now in Jackson – just Jackson – for forklift drivers, so how can you tell me your data and market research says I should just have funding for seven students?" Carrick asked.

When asked about it after the meeting, Ferguson said it's not just numbers that are part of the equation but also the availabilities. He said there are other forklift training opportunities in Jackson with lower fees, but that's on top of the fact that most places in Jackson and rural West Tennessee that have warehouses do their own in-house training for forklift drivers.

Carrick said he and Hobson will continue to fight for more funding for their schools because they deserve the funding and feel they're victims of discrimination.

Brandon Shields, brandon@jacksonpost.news

Fire department receives grant from state

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

Representatives from the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance were in Jackson on Friday, Sept. 20, awarding grants to various volunteer fire departments from all over rural West Tennessee for equipment, training and recruitment.

"Volunteer fire departments are so crucial in our state, but especially West Tennessee," said Commissioner Carter Lawrence. "So we're glad to be here to not only honor those who do the work of keeping our people and their homes safe but also giving them more resources to do what they do even better and more efficiently."



Madison County fire department officials receive a grant check from the state of Tennessee for the purposes of equipment and training at the Old Country Store on Sept. 20, 2024. (Photo courtesy of the State of Tennessee)

The event happened at the Old Country Store in Casey Jones Village, and a total of \$1.6 million was awarded to a total of 29 departments in eight counties.

One of those grants went to Madison County for \$36,547.

A number of state level elected officials were on hand for the presentation too, including State

Rep. Johnny Shaw from District 80, which is part of Madison County.

"I'm so glad for Madison County to get some help along with some of the departments in Har-

deman County," Shaw said. "Fire departments – volunteer or full-time – are vital parts of our community because without them, we have no assurance that we

can keep our homes safe in the event of a fire.

"And volunteer departments are important in areas like Madison and Hardeman counties because these small towns don't have the funds to pay for however many firefighters a fully-staffed department for the smallest towns or communities would take.

"So who do we rely on? Those that are willing to volunteer to step in and help when the need arises. And they need the funding to do their jobs well and stay safe as possible in the process. I appreciate Commissioner Lawrence for having his staff put this together and get these grants together."

Brandon Shields, brandon@jacksonpost.news

City receives grant to make repairs at Cypress Grove Park

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

Christi David has served for two years as the City of Jackson's park operations manager in the parks and recreation department.

One of her primary roles in the department has been to look for and apply for grants to help the City gain funding for needed projects for its parks throughout the Hub City.

One of the City's most unique parks just picked

up significant funding to help with some much-needed improvements that have been necessary for years.

"We've been awarded a \$392,000 grant from the Tennessee Outdoor Recreation division of the TDEC to rebuild a section of the boardwalk that's been closed for several years now at Cypress Grove Park," David said.

The City had to close down about a quarter-mile of boardwalk in the park that's called the Jewel Weed Loop that goes around Killdeer Pond in

the park.

"The park has a number of trails that are boardwalks, but some of them weren't elevated," David said. "This portion wasn't."

"So when the park was flooded more than once within a fairly short period of time – just a few years – those floods did a lot of damage to those boardwalks, and they had to be closed."

David said there have been efforts in the past to get the boardwalks fixed at different places, but funding and timing have



Jackson City Parks and Recreation Department just received a grant that will fund an early phase in work that will result in elevated boardwalks all over the park like this one. (Photo courtesy of City of Jackson)

been difficult, along with the environment.

"A couple years back when a small tornado blew past the park in March, we put out a request for proposal for work to be done on the boardwalk then," David said. "But all of the vendors that we knew that couldn't do the work that didn't answer the RFP, we reached out to them and made sure they'd seen it."

"They had, but they all had the same problem. This was in early spring that we were asking for the work to be done, and no one wanted to go into that area and do that

work because of all the snakes in the area, so we couldn't get anything done then."

With the timing of the grant awarding, which will be partially matched by the City to increase the funding to \$515,000, David said she hopes to work with A2H about designing the boardwalk next spring, send out the FRP about this time next year with hopes of having the work begun late fall/early winter of 2025 and completion done before spring of 2026 while snakes are still hibernating.

This work is part of

the larger plan to make the park more ADA compliant and restore the boardwalks to all parts of the parks.

"We've got elevated boardwalks through the park already that aren't closed, and people can still enjoy those," David said. "But I know a lot of people miss being able to take a walk around the pond and go out on the dock, which will be re-done in a later phase of the plan."

David said the City of Jackson was one of eight entities selected for the grant and the only one in West Tennessee.

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THE JACKSON POST



THE JACKSON POST SPORTS

The Jackson Post

Thursday, September 26, 2024

THE POST ROUTE

Your guide to this week's high school football games in Madison County

North Side (4-1) at Dyersburg (3-2)
Last year's score: Dyersburg 21, North Side 13
Players to watch: North Side RB Quinn Jenkins

What to know: North Side nearly knocked off the Trojans last year when they weren't supposed to compete with them very well. This time around, the question is can Dyersburg compete with North Side. The Trojans are probably the best team North Side has played so far this year, or at least since Week 1 when they took their loss to Crockett County. But the players that spent the first couple weeks getting used to their new positions seem to have settled in and are thriving in helping the team compete. Dyersburg's size will bring a new challenge for the Indians on the road that will prepare them for region play later.

Four wins in a row: The Indians are on a four-game win streak. The last time they won four in a row was the four Fridays in September of 2021 in which they were perfect for the month before losing to Haywood in the first Friday in October.

Riverside (4-1) at TCA (3-2)
Last year's score: Riverside 36, TCA 34
Players to watch: TCA CB Owen Atwood

What to know: This wound up being one of the most memorable games of the year for 2023 in rural West Tennessee football when the Lions led Riverside by two scores going into the fourth quarter. This could be another game in which TCA's lack of depth could be a big factor in keeping them from competing as well in the fourth quarter as they can in the first, so maintaining ball control would be beneficial for the team in black and purple.

Change of venue: Because of predicted inclement weather moving through the area on Friday night, TCA Athletic Director Dexter Williams announced on Monday that this game would move to Bethel University's stadium and turf field. TCA's play-by-play broadcaster Dave McCulley is also one of the associate athletic directors at Bethel, so negotiating that move probably didn't take a lot of arm twisting.



University School of Jackson quarterback Corben Howard takes a high snap before handing the ball off to running back Noah Spencer during their game at South Gibson last week. (GAIL BAILEY/For The Jackson Post)

South Side (1-3, 0-1) at Lexington (1-4, 0-1)
Last year's score: Lexington 35, South Side 14

Players to watch: South Side OL Carson Brewer

What to know: Despite how the Hawks played last week in the second half of their first Region 6-4A game, South Side has a solid shot at getting a spot in the playoffs this year. They've just got to finish in the top four in a six-team region. Winning last week would've been good for that cause, but that's an opportunity gone. Lexington is one of at least two teams who've taken a major step back so far this year as a program. If South Side can put together a full four quarters of top-level play on their part, particularly on defense, they've got a chance at knocking off Lexington. This team has had trouble scoring points or even moving the ball down field at times. South Side's defense has the potential to be among the most impactful defenses they've played. But they can't have a quarter where they let up and let them score two or three times because South Side's offense hasn't shown yet that it can score four touchdowns in a game yet.

Improving offense for Tigers: South Side's offensive output has been pretty consistent all season, keeping its point total each game between 13 and 20 points. Lexington's point total has had a trend, however, since scoring 48 against an inferior opponent in Week 1. The Tigers hit rock bottom in Week 2 with no

points, then six points the next week, then 21 and 28 last week.

Adamsville (3-2, 0-2) at Jackson Central-Merry (4-0, 2-0)
Last year's score: Adamsville 28, JCM 6

Players to watch: JCM WR Michael Massey

What to know: JCM easily got its biggest win since its rebirth four years ago last week when they knocked off Milan on the road. The game this week against Adamsville is homecoming, which brings its own distractions. This is one of a couple of games in the county this week that could be seen as a trap game as JCM could also be looking ahead to a game next week against North Side. But the coaching staff will do its best this week to ensure the Cougars keep their minds right and understand what's most important to the program at this point, and getting a win this week would put the team in a good position to compete for a playoff spot with big games remaining on the schedule.

Closer games for Cougars: Whether they win or lose, Adamsville's closest game so far this season is their Week 1 win over Fayette Academy by 19 points. JCM's games, however, keep getting closer and closer as the Cougars have won all four of their games. Their first win was by 54 points, then 16, then 14 and 11 last week at Milan.

Tipton-Rosemark (3-2, 1-0) at Jackson Christian (4-1, 1-0)
Last year's score: Jackson Christian 41, Tipton-Rosemark 0

Players to watch: Jackson Christian LB Eli Craig

What to know: The Rebels appear to be a better team this year, at least offensively, as they're scoring more points this year. The Eagles took a few minutes before they got going offensively last week, so they could be trying to get a better start this time around as they try to remain at the top of the region standings.

Out-of-town region win streak: The Eagles haven't won a region championship in a while, but they're usually finishing second to one of their neighbors in town. The last time they lost to a region opponent from outside Jackson was on Oct. 30, 2020, when they lost at home to Davidson Academy 52-10. Since then, the Eagles have won 12 of those games in a row including last week's win over Fayette Academy.

University School of Jackson (5-0, 0-0) at St. George's (1-3, 0-0)
Last year's score: USJ 40, St. George's 7

Players to watch: USJ LB Alex Wallace

What to know: Even though this is the first region game for both teams, the Bruins could be in danger of this being a trap game for them. They won a very emotional game last week at South Gibson, and there could be some lingering effects from it – particularly since the health of quarterback Corben Howard is a big question this week. But with a game against a one-win opponent coming up before a showdown at home against Northpoint Christian next week, the

AREA SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sept. 26

High school volleyball

Madison at Jackson Christian, 6 p.m.; USJ at Lexington, 6 p.m.; TCA at Chester Co., 6 p.m.

High school girls' soccer

Lexington at South Side, 5 p.m.; USJ at TCA, 5:30 p.m.; Haywood at North Side, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 27

High school football

Riverside at TCA at Bethel; Tipton-Rosemark at Jackson Christian; Adamsville at JCM; USJ at St. George's; North Side at Dyersburg; South Side at Lexington;

Saturday, Sept. 28

High school volleyball

TCA at Crockett Co. tournament

High school girls' soccer

Madison at Lakeland Prep, 10 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 30

High school girls' soccer

South Side at Milan, 5 p.m.; TCA at Jackson Christian, 6 p.m.

High school volleyball

South Side/USJ at Dyersburg, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 1

High school volleyball

USJ at Harding Aca., 6 p.m.; South Side at TCA, 6 p.m.

High school girls' soccer

South Side at Madison, 4:30 p.m.; Dickson Co. at North Side, 6:30 p.m.

High school cross country

TCA, Jackson Christian, USJ at Obion Co., 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

High school volleyball

North Side at South Side, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 3

High school volleyball

TCA at Harding Aca., 6 p.m.

High school girls' soccer

Crockett Co. at North Side, 5:30 p.m.

Bruins could be in danger of looking ahead.

Rule clarification:

There was in instance last week in which USJ had to punt two times in a row at South Gibson in a series of events that frustrated the Bruin faithful that had made the trip to Medina. On the first punt, one of the officials blew an errant whistle in the middle of the play as the South Gibson returner appeared to signal for a fair catch, mishandled the kick and players from both teams tried to cover the ball. After a couple of minutes of discussion, the officials went by what's supposed to happen according to the rule book and replayed the down.

Scotts Hill (0-5, 0-2)

at Liberty (0-4, 0-2)

Last year's score: Scotts Hill 41, Liberty 14

Players to watch: Liberty LB Jayden Groce

What to know: Neither team is scoring a lot. Neither team's defense is stopping the opposition very often. Two teams that badly need a win will have a great opportunity to get one this week, and another chance like this probably won't come before the end of this season. Liberty has an athletic advantage and a depth advantage, and if they can utilize those, they could see success.

Hard times: Scotts Hill and Liberty have combined to have lost games by 50 or more points five times so far in 2024. And that number could've been higher as Liberty lost another by 49, and Scotts Hill lost another by 48.

Compiled by Brandon Shields

All of Madison Co. should pull for Liberty this week

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

This week's column is a little different, but I think everyone reading will be OK with it – just this once.

I don't normally pull for a team to win. I'm not supposed to. Sports media – just like media covering government – is supposed to do our work without bias.

But watching college football this year, I've seen alleged broadcast

journalist Mark Ingram (former Alabama player and Heisman Trophy winner) on FOX Sports go and hug Alabama's running back after they got a big win over Wisconsin.

And we watched ABC's journalist openly fact check Donald Trump during the recent debate with Vice-President Kamala Harris while fact-checking none of her statements.

So while I generally stay unbiased in coverage, I won't for this.

Liberty Crusaders, we're all looking at you this week.

Your seniors were in seventh grade the last time this program won a game on the field.

A lot has happened since that last win: 2 coaching changes for this program, a global pandemic, Marlon King getting hired, at least three principals at Liberty, at least two retirements for Tom Brady and I've had four jobs.

This has gone on long

enough. One look at the players in the locker room shows anyone who watches football that y'all have the physical capabilities to compete.

A look at your head coach's resume shows that he has the ability to lead this program to success.

And maybe it would've been better if you hadn't started the season against three teams that have a combined record of 13-1.

But the schedule is what the schedule is. You've

taken a few more lumps this season, but you have a chance to hand someone else a lump this week.

Each guy just needs to go out and do his job when the ball is snapped for four to nine seconds on the play until the whistle is blown, then walk back to the line of scrimmage and do that again another 60 times or so. But either way, it is doable.

I'm picking it. All of Madison County wants to see it. Go make it happen. As far as my picks last

week go, there were a couple of risks taken last week, but one of them paid off with the Jackson Central-Merry win over Milan. The other two risks – South Gibson over USJ and South Side over Chester County – weren't successful as I finished 5-2 for the week to bring my record to 18-9.

Here are this week's picks for Week 6:

North Side 26, Dy-

See MADISON CO.,

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Local Sports

Indians relish playing for championships

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

For any local high school football fans who aren't aware of the difference a year can make, they need to take a look at the North Side High School program.

After the first five weeks of the season, the Indians were 2-3 after having been pounded by eventual region champion Hardin County and had been upended earlier in the season by Crockett County and Obion County.

They needed a late comeback to get a win at Lexington to get a victory in their first region game, which would prove to be the game that got them into the playoffs.

Fast forward 52 weeks to now, and the Indians are riding a four-game win streak going into their Week 6 game at Dyersburg.

They pounded Hardin County last week, fought off a comeback attempted by Lexington the week before and left no doubt about who the better



North Side running back Miles Howard tries to gain more yardage in their win earlier this month against Lexington at home. (BRANDON SHIELDS/The Jackson Post)

team was against Obion County the week before that.

In fact, if they convert a last-minute 2-point conversion in Week 1 against Crockett County, the Indians might've been 5-0 at this point. But that's not anything head coach Woodrow Lowe Jr. is thinking very much about.

"Of course I would've liked for us to have won that game, but who knows?" Lowe said. "If we don't lose that game, then maybe we don't have the same fire or sense of urgency that our guys

have been playing with.

"So if the trade off is our guys take that loss but play better the rest of the season, I'll take that."

Lowe said even more basic than that is he believes there's a greater amount of buy-in to the coaching this year compared to last year, and that's been the foundation for the team's improved play.

"I think some of the younger guys have seen that we were more successful last year, which our goal last year was to simply compete better than they had the year

before, which they did," Lowe said. "This year, year two the goal is to be past the point of competing in games and instead competing for the playoffs and region championships."

North Side is 2-0 in Region 6-4A play and steps out of region this week to travel to Dyersburg. The Indians came close to upsetting the Trojans last year when they were one of the best teams in rural West Tennessee.

The Trojans appear to have taken a step back as a program with their 3-2 record, which adds to the

intrigue of the matchup.

The Indians' attack is fairly balanced so far as they average 184.4 rushing yards per game as a team and 159.6 passing yards.

Transfer quarterback Henry Schiebout is averaging just over 100 yards passing per game. Miles Howard and Javonte Smith are his favorite targets, having caught 12 passes for 298 yards and four touchdowns for Howard and Smith with 190 yards and three scores on 14 receptions.

Quinn Jenkins is the leading rusher, having

carried the ball 39 times for 267 yards and eight scores.

Georgie Starr is the star on the defensive side of the ball, averaging 10 tackles per game.

With the second half of the season ahead of them, and most of those games being in region play, Lowe said the goal is to keep playing hard and keep themselves in contention for the region championship.

Everyone in the region except North Side and South Gibson has suffered at least one region loss.

"We want to stay above that and know going into those last couple weeks that we're hosting a first-round game and let everyone else be where we were last year, trying to get in and needing help to get in," Lowe said. "Because I can tell you in the region we line up against in the playoffs, there's a big difference between finishing No. 1 and No. 4."

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Madison volleyball competing better this season

Brandon Shields
Managing Editor

The volleyball team at Madison Academic has a lot going on for it right now.

Seven seniors with a good amount of experience are leading the Lady Mustangs this season, and they're having their best season in a while with an 11-4 overall record and 7-2 in district play.

Their only two losses in district play are to Huntingdon, who currently leads the district.

"The first time we played them, they beat us in straight sets," said head coach Kelli Hytinen. "[On Monday] we went to their place and played them and pushed them to five sets before they barely beat us.

"We weren't happy with the loss, but we came away from that game feeling like we can play with them if we meet them again in the postseason."

The blocking tandem of Kennedy Bunting and Jaylee Donald leads the Lady Mustangs offensively. Bunting, who hadn't played volleyball in a couple years, is leading the team with 73 kills. Donald has 57.

"We usually try to have the rotation where we have one of them up front and the other in the back," Hytinen said. "Jaylee is our team captain and does a great job leading on the court no matter where she is lined up."

Outside hitter Riley Harris is a weapon for the team as she can bring plenty of force behind her hits when she's set up the right way.



Madison's volleyball players prepare to play defense as they send the ball over the net. (Photo courtesy of Madison volleyball)

"Her hits are hard to stop, and her serves are too," said Hytinen about Harris. "Her serves come over the net in a way that they almost roll off multiple players before they can get a good handle on it."

Harris' stat line includes 34 kills, 34 aces and 32 digs going into this week.

Sisters Debra and Ella Stewart are solid players

for the Lady Mustangs on the back line. Debra entered this week with 67 digs and 24 aces, while Ella had 53 digs and 17 aces as a sophomore.

Hytinen said both of them do a good job of getting under the ball when it's coming over the net and getting it to a teammate to set up for a kill if they don't get it themselves.

Then the offense is

structured around setter Kiki Hakim, who has 160 assists, 60 digs, 53 aces and 39 kills.

"Everyone is putting in the work and trying to improve individually to get the team better," Hytinen said.

One thing that helps them is the availability of Hudl for the team.

Hudl is a brand that's been around in football for more than a year

which is a stat tracker and video tracker for athletes.

Hytinen, who served as volleyball coach for the first time last year, wanted to ensure the Lady Mustangs had their own account this season.

"It's really helpful because our girls get their stats and highlights and game film sent to them," Hytinen said. "So they have access to see how they're playing, how they're looking and how they can fix the parts of their game that need fixing or simple tweaking."

"We watch it some as a team, but a lot of them are spending time after each game once everything is uploaded watching it themselves to get an idea of how can improve. Then they work on what needs improvement."

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MADISON CO.

From 11A

Dyersburg 20: Dyersburg is possibly the toughest team the Indians have played so far this year, including the team that beat them in Week 1. The good thing about that is this should be a good test for them and it's not a region game, so if they were to lose, it shouldn't have any effect on their playoff hopes. But a game like this is needed because if North Side has aspirations of not just making the playoffs, but making a run, then they need to be used to playing tougher competition than what they've played the last month or so.

Riverside 34, TCA 20: The biggest thing against the Lions is their lack of depth compared to the defending Class 2A state champions. But they showed fight in this matchup last year not many expected to see from them when they had a couple of turnovers and took a big lead on them into the fourth quarter. If they plan to win, they'll need another big lead

going into the fourth because Riverside will probably make a strong comeback once again.

South Side 16, Lexington 12: Both teams' season trends are very similar. Lexington is scoring more points than South Side and allowing more points than the Hawks' defense. Both teams' opponents' records have a winning percentage of more than 60 percent. South Side has a consistent defense that they could hold Lexington to few points all night. So South Side will pick up what many might consider an upset win.

JCM 24, Adamsville 7: The Cougars don't normally score a lot of points, but they did last week out of necessity. They won't need to score a lot this week because Adamsville struggles to score against quality teams in their region. That trend continues this week.

Jackson Christian 42, Tipton-Rosemark 21: Tipton-Rosemark is scoring more points this



Liberty's football team takes the field for their game against South Side that was ultimately canceled because of weather earlier this month. (Photo courtesy of Jackson-Madison County Schools)

year even if they're also giving up more points. Jackson Christian could potentially score closer to 70 points if they wanted to, but their coaching staff has shown themselves to be more conservative this year.

USJ 35, St. George's

7: The Gryphons are struggling this year as their coach tries to right the ship and return the program to the prominence USJ fans in Jackson are likely to associate St. George's with. USJ could be caught looking ahead to a big matchup

the next week, but with this being the first game in region play, the Bruins would hopefully for their sake be locked in on this opponent this week.

Liberty 21, Scotts Hill 14: Liberty has the athletic ability to score on other teams. They scored

first against Westview and North Side. If they can do that, then they should be able to consistently move the ball on Scotts Hill and the defense make a few steps to give Liberty its first win on the field since Oct. 25, 2019.

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MIA/POW

From 6A

and member of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the table is small enough for one to sit, symbolizing the isolation of an absent service member.

The table is first set with a white tablecloth to represent the pure intentions of the service member, and on that tablecloth is a single rose in a case to symbolize the blood ser-

vice members have shed to ensure freedom for all Americans.

There's a bread plate on the table with a single slice of lemon on it, representing the bitter fate of

those missing.

Salt is sprinkled on the bread plate to represent the tears shed by families at home.

An inverted wine glass sits on the table to repre-

sent the fact the missing are unable to partake of the meal and drink.

There's a lit candle that symbolizes the hope that lives in the hearts of those missing to illumina-

nate the missing person's way home, and the empty chair at the table represents the absence of those missing or fallen.

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