



# Home Sweet Home

Bulldogs' golf take third at Mossy Oak Collegiate, **Page 1B**

# THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH

CDISPATCH.COM

75¢ NEWSSTAND

THURSDAY | APRIL 6, 2023

## State says yes to Burns Bottom, no to amphitheater

### Gaskin: City maintaining 'albatross' without money to finish it

**BRIAN JONES**  
bjones@cdispatch.com

When it comes to state appropriations, it was both good and bad news for the city of Columbus.

While the city got \$3 million to funnel to the Columbus Redevelopment Authority for its Burns Bottom Redevelopment project, it was left high and dry when it came to the money to complete the Terry Brown Amphitheater.

Last week the Mississippi Legislature passed its annual appropriations bill, its primary mechanism for dishing out cash

for city and county governments and their projects. The bill provided the CRA's \$3 million, as well as about \$500,000 for the town of Caledonia.

The CRA asked for about \$6 million from the state for sewer, drainage, water, broadband and road improvements in a five-block area in and around Burns Bottom — specifically an area between Third and Fourth Street North and Second and Seventh Avenues east of the Lowndes County Soccer Complex.

CRA President Marthalie Porter told The Dispatch she is

grateful for the state's help.

"We certainly feel the appropriations we received to be extremely helpful," Porter said. "We'll need all of it to address the infrastructure needs there. We're working with Columbus Light and Water about some (in-kind labor) they can help us with. This is one of the biggest puzzles I've ever worked on."

The CRA board will have to decide where that money will go specifically, said City Engineer Kevin Stafford.

"Obviously the things under the ground have to be fixed or relocated first," he said. "You

don't want to pave the road and then have to come back and do the water and sewer later. The first required stuff will be the demolition or relocation of water and sewer and putting in underground conduits for electrical and drainage."

Porter said the CRA was working to get federal grant money to fund the balance of the work.

"We're looking at a couple of grants on the federal level," she said. "We have been talking with the Appalachian Regional Commission, and they have a



**Porter**

grant program for the commercial areas (in Burns Bottom). We're trying to look at everything we can."

Some of that federal money has strings, Stafford said, and that needs to be taken into account, too.

"Some of the federal funds are earmarked for specific things," Stafford said. "The state isn't. There's no point in spending money on water and sewer, for example, if the feds have money coming for water and sewer. ... You want to see where all the pieces fit together to make the money stretch over all the needs."

See **APPROPRIATIONS**, 6A

## Capital murder charge for teen in fatal Tuesday shooting

### Man killed during robbery at Blake Court Townhouses

**BY ABIGAIL SIPE ROCHESTER**  
arochester@cdispatch.com

**STARKVILLE** — A Columbus teen is charged with capital murder in a fatal shooting Tuesday night at Blake Court Townhouses.

Tyshawn Henley, 18, was arrested Wednesday afternoon by the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Fugitive Task Force, according to a press release from Starkville Police Department.

Henley is accused of killing Kirby Sherman, 31, of Starkville, during a robbery.

Police officers responded at about 7:34 p.m. to the townhouses at 1220 Louisville Street. Sherman was unresponsive by the time they arrived. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Drugs, cash and guns remain a consistent contributor in the senseless loss of life throughout this area," SPD Chief Mark Ballard said in the press release. "I am sorry for this family's loss."

The speed of the arrest would not have been possible without the diligent efforts of the first responding officers at Starkville PD and the tremendous assistance of community members who provided their support."

The incident is still under investigation. There were no other injuries reported, according to Starkville Police Public Information Officer Brandon Lovelady.



**Henley**



**Ballard**

## IMPACT AWARD



Robert Scott/Dispatch Staff

Karen Overstreet and Garret Torbert with Golden Triangle Theatre hug while celebrating the organization's win of the 100+ Women Who Care Columbus Impact Award during the spring giving circle on Tuesday at Munson and Brothers. The group was one of three in the running and won a prize of \$18,500. The two runners up, Golden Triangle Contact Helpline and Trinity Retirement Place Sunday Fund, received \$500 each. The Impact Award is given out twice a year in the spring and fall.

## Can't pass the third-grade reading test? Maybe it's your eyesight

### 'If a child is struggling to see, they're struggling to learn'

**BY JESSICA LINDSEY**  
jlindsey@cdispatch.com

Each year since its implementation in 2015-16, roughly 20 to 35 percent of third-graders in the state fail the English-language arts portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program assessment on the first try.

The Mississippi Vision Foundation said low vision can contribute to low test scores, and for the seventh year, the foundation is continuing its Third Grade Eye

Exam program, which provides eye exams at no-cost to the family of third graders who do not pass the state reading assessment test and do not have insurance.

There are three rounds of ELA tests in the state, and the first is scheduled for April 10 to April 21. Because of this, the free exams are being offered from May 1 to July 31 by select clinics, which can be found at [mvisionfoundation.org/participating-eye-doctors.html](http://mvisionfoundation.org/participating-eye-doctors.html). MVF announced in a Monday press release.

Of the children who take advantage of the program, 88 percent end up needing some form of visual intervention, said Mississippi Optometric Association Executive Director Sarah Link.

"Many times if a child is struggling to see, they're struggling to learn," Link said. "Statistically, 25 percent of all school-aged children have vision problems, and more than 80 percent of those do not get the help they need. With experts estimating 80 percent of what we learn comes

through the visual processing of information, having poor eyesight, issues with focusing, blurry vision and other vision problems can stop a child from processing the information they need to retain in order to learn."

Jessica Mitchell, clinic administrator for Mitchell Eye Care in Starkville, said historically the clinic has participated in the program because

See **EYESIGHT**, 3A



**Link**

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## FIVE QUESTIONS

- 1 What humorous online comic, named after a breakfast food, was created by cartoonist Matthew Inman?
- 2 What Tim Allen sitcom was revived by FOX in 2018, a year following its cancellation after six seasons on another network?
- 3 What band performed a memorial concert for its late lead singer, Chester Bennington, at LA's Hollywood Bowl, in 2017?
- 4 What 1986 arcade game featuring giant monsters was turned into a 2018 movie starring Dwayne Johnson?
- 5 What brawny actor starred in a comical yet unsettling ad for Rocket Mortgage, shedding his muscles and long locks while relaxing at home?

**Answers, 6B**

## CALENDAR

### Today

■ **Reception:** Columbus Arts Council will host an opening reception for its April exhibit, Southern Fiber Artists, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Rosenzweig Arts Center. Free to attend.

### Friday

■ **Wine Down:** Maypop Spa will host a weekend wine down form 5:30-8 p.m. Enjoy food, drinks and a mini service. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at [maypopsa.square.site](http://maypopsa.square.site).

### Saturday

■ **Trader Day:** Oktibeha County Co-op will host the first Trader Day of 2023 from 9 a.m.-noon. Local

vendors with small animals, home baked goods, fresh produce, arts and crafts and more. For more information, call (662) 323-1742.

■ **Crawfish Party:** Muddy Waters Sports Bar (171 Moores Creek Road, Columbus) will host a crawfish party with Stalekracker at 4 p.m. Entry is \$5.

■ **Fashion Show:** Webber Entertainment will present a community fashion show at 5 p.m. at Sim Scott Community Center. Entertainment from DJ Love Bone and local dance teams. Free admission. More information: (662) 386-1340

■ **Concert:** Ruth Etc. will perform at the Columbus Arts Council's Omnova Theater at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased on the arts council's website.

## LOCAL FOLKS



**Tera Crowell**, of Columbus, enjoys spending time with her daughter, working and being creative.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

- April 10:** City Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
- April 11:** Columbus Housing Authority, noon, CHA office
- April 11:** Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
- April 11:** Columbus Municipal School District, 6 p.m., Brandon Central Services

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144TH YEAR, No. 18

## DISPATCH TOUR



Dispatch Staff photo

Judy Gray's third grade class from Heritage Academy toured the offices of The Dispatch last week to learn all about what goes into producing a daily newspaper.

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# Trump's bravado tested as legal woes overlap with campaign

**'The only crime that I have committed is to fearlessly defend our nation from those who seek to destroy it'**

**Former President Donald Trump**

BY JILL COLVIN  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Donald Trump stepped into a Manhattan courthouse Tuesday afternoon, his usual bravado was replaced with palpable anger and notable silence as the former president was reduced to a criminal defendant in custody.

By the time he returned to his Mar-a-Lago club hours later, he was ready to unleash.

"The only crime that I have committed is to fearlessly defend our nation from those who seek to destroy it," the first former president to be indicted told a crowd of hundreds of loyal supporters.

Trump made an unlikely transformation from reality television star to U.S. president by tapping into the grievance of Republican voters disillusioned with the political establishment. As he wages a comeback bid for the White House, Trump and his campaign hope that this indictment will serve as a rallying cry that will galvanize the same voters. Already, he has raised millions of dollars off the news.

It's an approach that will test Trump's "all publicity is good publicity" adage as his decades-long his-

## Stormy Daniels must pay \$122,000 in Trump legal bills

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Stormy Daniels must pay nearly \$122,000 of Donald Trump's legal fees that were racked up in connection with the porn actor's failed defamation lawsuit, an appeals court ruled Tuesday.

The decision in California came at about the same time that Trump became the only ex-president to be charged with a crime. Trump pleaded not guilty in a New York City courtroom to a 34-count felony indictment accusing him falsifying business records in a scheme to hush up allegations of extramarital affairs with Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal that broke during his first White House run.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, alleges she had an affair with Trump in 2006 and was paid \$130,000 as part of a nondisclosure agreement days before the 2016 presidential election.

She sued him for defamation after he dismissed her claims of being threatened to keep quiet about the tryst as a "total con job." A judge threw out the case in 2018.

tory of bending the world to his will collides with cold legal reality.

Trump, the early frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination, now faces the unprecedented prospect of mounting another campaign for the White House while simultaneously being on trial for charges stemming from hush money payments to women during his 2016 campaign. He remains under investigation in Georgia and Washington, raising the prospect of multiple trials in several jurisdictions, all unfolding as Republicans begin voting on their next nominee.

In the meantime, Trump's rivals for the Republican presidential nomination are struggling to emerge from his ever-growing shadow, even as the proceedings raise serious questions about Trump's viability in a general election.

"A lot of times you have a candi-

date who's in trouble, you create a diversion," said Trump campaign pollster John McLaughlin. "They're indicting Trump, Trump consumes all the headlines and media coverage."

While most defendants would see an arrest as an indignity to be handled quietly, Trump — a man who has always craved the media spotlight — seized the PR and fundraising opportunity, blasting out his itinerary and narrating a play-by-play on social media.

"Heading to Lower Manhattan, the Courthouse. Seems so SURREAL — WOW, they are going to ARREST ME. Can't believe this is HAPPENING in America. MAGA!" he wrote on Truth Social as his motorcade headed toward the courthouse, his every movement captured by news helicopters hovering overhead.

## US House leader, Taiwan president meet as China protests

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy welcomed Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen for a historic meeting on U.S. soil Wednesday, in a politically sensitive session underscoring U.S. lawmakers' growing support for her self-ruled island as tensions rise with rival China.

McCarthy and Tsai briefly shook hands when her SUV pulled up to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library under the Southern California sun. Giant wooden doors closed behind them as they walked inside for

what were to be several hours of meetings with Democratic and Republican members of Congress, cameras transmitting the show of high-level partnership to China and the world.

The two made no comment as small crowds of demonstrators waved signs, both for Taiwan and for China's claim to the island.

For Tsai, this was the most sensitive stop on a weeklong journey meant to shore up alliances with the U.S. and Central America. China views any interaction between U.S. and Taiwanese officials as a challenge to its claim

to the island as its territory, and has reacted to past meetings with shows of force and by pulling back on dialogue with the United States.

The Chinese responded to a visit by then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan last August with its largest live-fire drills in decades, including firing a missile over the island.

Angry Chinese officials have pledged a sharp but unspecified response to the meeting with McCarthy. The Biden administration has said there is nothing new or provocative about this visit by Tsai, which is the

latest of a half-dozen.

"There's no reason for the Chinese to overreact in any way," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters Wednesday. "We'll watch this as closely as we can."

Chinese vessels started a joint patrol and inspection operation in the central and northern waters of the Taiwan Strait, state media announced Wednesday morning. Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said Wednesday evening it had also tracked the Chinese Army's Shandong aircraft carrier passing through the Bashi Strait, to Taiwan's southeast.

## AREA OBITUARIES

### COMMERCIAL DISPATCH OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries with basic information including visitation and service times, are provided free of charge. Extended obituaries with a photograph, detailed biographical information and other details families may wish to include, are available for a fee. Obituaries must be submitted through funeral homes unless the deceased's body has been donated to science. If the deceased's body was donated to science, the family must provide official proof of death. Please submit all

obituaries on the form provided by The Commercial Dispatch. Free notices must be submitted to the newspaper no later than 3 p.m. the day prior for publication Tuesday through Friday; no later than 4 p.m. Saturday for the Sunday edition; and no later than 7:30 a.m. for the Monday edition. Incomplete notices must be received no later than 7:30 a.m. for the Monday through Friday editions. Paid notices must be finalized by 3 p.m. for inclusion the next day Monday through Thursday; and on Friday by 3 p.m. for Sunday and Monday publication. For more

information, call 662-328-2471.

### Charles Baucom

COLUMBUS — Charles Baucom, 60, died April 5, 2023, at his residence.

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

### Herbert Westbrook

COLUMBUS — Herbert G. Westbrook, 87, died on April 5, 2023, at Trinity Healthcare.

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

See OBITUARIES, 5A

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AREA ARRESTS

The following arrests were made by Lowndes County Sheriff's Office:

■ Ashley Craven, 23, was charged with failure to stop motor vehicle when officer signaled, possession of methamphetamine less than .1 gram, driving under the influence-first offense, failure to dim headlights and littering.

■ Becky Whitworth, 39, was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia.

■ Carolyn Carter, 64, was charged with possession of methamphetamine.

■ Chasity Douglas, 31, was charged with two counts of child endangerment, careless driving and driving under the influence-child endangerment.

■ Darius Cuevas, 39, was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

■ David Ashmore, 49, was charged with commercial burglary and possession of methamphetamine.

■ David Evans, 41, was charged with possession of methamphetamine.

■ Demarquis Miller, 29, was charged with two counts of domestic violence/aggravated assault and malicious mischief.

■ Demetric Stevenson Jr., 23, was charged with failure to stop motor vehicle when officer signaled.

■ Eldridge McNeese, 54, was charged with two counts of possession of methamphetamine.

■ Gary Morrison, 59, was charged with possession of methamphetamine.

■ Gregory Hill, 58, was charged with possession with intent to distribute, possession of cocaine, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and possession of marijuana.



Craven



Whitworth



Carter



Douglas



Cuevas



Ashmore



Evans



Miller



Stevenson



McNeese



Morrison



G. Hill



Robison



K. Hill



D. Moore



Hayden



Worthey



Desmidt



T. Smith



Sansing



Henderson



Griffin



Y. Moore



McKinney



Holmes



Gandy



Hogan



Myles



Bell Jr.



J. Smith



Tavares-Morales



Coleman



Culpepper



Shields



Patterson



McCarter



Quinn



Winston



Wells



Hudson

■ Halon Robison, 62, was charged with possession of methamphetamine.

■ Kevin Hill, 36, was charged with possession of a weapon by a felon.

■ Destiny Moore, 22, was charged with attempt to commit an offense.

■ Nathaniel Hayden, 45, was charged with sexual battery.

■ Nathaniel Worthey, 45, was charged with two counts of sex offender registration failure, two counts of sex offender residence violation, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana in a vehicle, seatbelt violation and suspended drivers license.

■ Robert Desmidt, 45, was charged with sale of a controlled substance.

■ Tyler Smith, 42, was charged with aggravated

assault to manifest extreme indifference to life.

■ Walter Sansing, 52, was charged with commercial burglary and expired license tag.

■ Wendy Henderson, 50, was charged with two counts of sale of a controlled substance and failure to appear.

■ William Griffin, 29, was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia.

■ Yolanda Moore, 43, was charged with child deprivation of necessities with substantial harm.

The following arrests were made by the Oktibbeha County Sheriff's Office:

■ Jermaine McKinney, 42, was charged with burglary other than a dwelling and no drivers license.

■ Tyler Holmes, 20, was charged with failure to stop when an officer signaled, possession of a controlled substance and receiving stolen property.

■ Javalon Gandy, 19, was charged with burglary of a vehicle and disorderly conduct.

■ Desiree Hogan, 21, was charged with bond surrender.

■ Dallas Myles, 37, was charged with burglary of a residence and bond jumping.

■ Derrick Bell Jr., 18, was charged with burglary of a vehicle.

■ Jimmy Smith, 38, was charged with aggravated domestic assault.

■ John Tavares-Morales, 23, was charged with three counts false pretense.

■ Tabias Coleman, 29, was charged with ag-

gravated domestic assault.

■ Cameron Culpepper, 22, was charged with domestic violence-aggravated assault.

■ Anfernee Shields, 26, was charged with possession of marijuana more than 30 grams and trafficking a controlled substance.

■ Kentarious Patterson, 21, was charged with two counts bond surrender.

■ Chant McCarter, 52, was charged with possession of marijuana with intent.

■ Daquavis Quinn, 20, was charged with contempt of court.

■ Devin Winston, 57, was charged with tamper-



Lucious



Deloach



Butts

ing with evidence and probation violation.

■ Andrew Wells, 24, was charged with simple assault.

■ Brandon Hudson, 29, was charged with possession of a weapon by a felon.

■ Quavontae Lucious, 22, was charged with tampering with evidence and MDOC hold.

■ Michael Deloach, 44, was charged with DUI 3rd and possession of a weapon by a felon.

■ John Butts, 23, was charged with possession of a stolen firearm.

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

Lowndes County

Marriages

- Willie Rush and Debora Guyton; March 2
- Justin Stephenson and Halley Lanier; March 3
- Adam Williams and Jennetta Washington; March 3
- Alvin Triplett and Daniella Collins; March 6
- Nicholas Sisson and Arianna Michniak; March 9
- Antonio Jones and Elizabeth Johnson; March 9
- Manav Patel and Nistha Patel; March 10
- Julian McCrary and Terisa McQueen; March 10
- Niserg Rao and Chelsea Freeman; March 11
- Justice Sharp and Gracie Levis-ter; March 11
- Lawrence Brown and Nyshia Howard; March 12
- Turner Warren and Madison McCaleb; March 14
- Tavares Clark and Alexis

- David Vargas and Jadelynn Rudolf; March 15
- Coby Kurtz and Amanda Hamilton; March 15
- Aaron Cummings and Ana Bacallao; March 16
- Devontae Jones and Moeshia Clemons; March 17
- Sammy Harris Jr. and Lois Morrow; March 17
- Jonathan Davie and Angelia Williams; March 17
- Joseph Epling and Brittany Stahl; March 17
- Kenneth Moore and Cynthia Turner; March; 17
- Kyle Leonard and Rebecca Haymond; March 18
- Juwan Taylor and Courtney Harrison; March 20
- Lavontae Taylor and Jaleesa Hood; March 22
- Terry Boykin Jr and Amy Richardson; March 23
- Steven Brand and Quanesha Edwards; March 24

- William Rollins and Lauren Wilson; March 25
  - Dustin Barrier and Lauren Wood; March 25
  - Nileshkumar Patel and Shitalben Patel; March 28
  - Trenton Dunn and Haley Rohleder; March 29
- Divorces**
- Kimberly Renee Brown and Christopher Lee Brown; Feb. 27
  - Michael Chandler and Adell Saffore Chandler; March 2
  - Vishonte Latrezas Harris and Kelley Zane Harris; Feb. 27
  - Stephanie Renae Crawley and Jacob Crawley; March 10
  - Justin Meddleton Carter and Britney Nicole Bryant Carter; March 16
  - Louise Spencer Coe and William Paul Coe; March 13
  - Julian Kelhower and Sheena Kelhower; March 21
  - Ashley Danielle Moyer et al; March 24

- Chelsea Brown and Frederick Brown; March 24
  - Delilah A Hawthorne and Carlos M Hawthorne; March 23
  - Lamerica Randle and James Randle Jr.; March 24
- Oktibbeha County**
- Divorces**
- Tara Agnew and Ellis Agnew; March 7
  - Jenni Kilburn-Oswalt and Christopher Ryan Oswalt; March 7
  - William Capice Bell and Teresa Bell; March 3
  - Terry Ham and Tiffany Ham; March 16
  - Joni Cooks D. Young and Mark A. Young Sr.; March 27
  - Whitney Barham Coleman and Anthony Coleman; March 24

Eyesight

Continued from Page 1A

it is important to help young people get help they may not know they need.

“What a lot of people don't realize is that the primary cause for a child to fall behind in school is actually because they're not able to see the board properly, and most children are so used to it by the time they are in grade school that they don't realize it's a problem,” Mitchell told The Dispatch. “They don't realize it isn't normal, so a lot of times they can't communicate that to their parents. ... A lot of these conditions are causing them to decline academically, and it's better to correct it earlier rather than later because they can fall further behind.”

Ashley Nichols, third grade assistant principal at Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary, said the school nurse typically screens students at the beginning of the year, but often students can pass that visual exam and fly under the radar.

“When you take a test, your ability to read and decipher what's on a screen for three solid hours is going to be impacted,” Nichols said. “Adults now are getting into the habit of wearing blue light glasses, but that's not a common practice for children. If their eyes tire quickly or eas-

ily while they're assessing on the computer for that long, their vision could definitely play a role in low scores. Also if they can't see to differentiate what letters are very well, then obviously they can't read the words and passages.”

While the exams are no-cost to the parents of participating children, there are often local donors that cover the costs of services. If there is no local donor, MVF covers the cost for the clinic, Link said.

If children end up needing visual correction with glasses or contacts, Link said MVF works with a few vendors to cover the cost of those corrections.

When parents make the appointment, they should let the clinic know it is for the Third Grade Eye Exam program. On the day of the appointment, parents should bring a letter from the school showing the child did not pass the assessment.

“For students who are covered through private insurance, applicable co-pays may apply due to laws that require the doctor to collect this amount,” the MVF press release said. “All children, regardless of their family's ability to pay, will be seen by (optometrists) participating in the program.”



Mitchell



Nichols

**WCBJ** YOUR NEWS LEADER  
**WCBJ FIRST ALERT** @AccuWeather

**SUMMARY:** Rain showers and a few storms continue into the weekend. The sun will return for Easter weekend and next week.

THU NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
<b>Storm Chance</b>	<b>Rain Showers</b>	<b>Rain Showers</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Mostly Clear</b>
LOW <b>51</b>	HIGH LOW <b>60 55</b>	HIGH LOW <b>65 48</b>	HIGH LOW <b>71 48</b>	HIGH LOW <b>75 48</b>

**ALMANAC DATA**  
 Tuesday in Columbus  

Temperature	High	Low
Tuesday	86	61
Normal	75	51
Record	90	36

 Precipitation (inches)  
 Tuesday 0.00"  
 Month to date 0.74"  
 Normal month to date 0.79"  
 Year to date 19.72"  
 Normal year to date 16.54"

**FORECAST FOR SELECTED CITIES**

City	Thu Hi/Lo	Fri Hi/Lo
Atlanta	85/62	72/50
Boston	70/47	57/35
Chicago	52/36	48/37
Dallas	63/49	59/51
Los Angeles	76/53	71/52
Nashville	55/47	60/48
New York	75/47	62/39
Orlando	89/69	90/68
Phoenix	80/54	85/59
Seattle	52/47	55/45

**TOMBIGBEE RIVER STAGES**  
 In feet as of 6 a.m. Wed

Flood Stage	Stage	24-hr. Chng.
Fulton	20	12.06 -1.10
Bigbee	14	7.17 -0.55
Amory	20	12.26 -0.68
Columbus	162	137.99 -0.56
Bevill	122	111.46 -1.63

**LAKE LEVELS**  
 In feet as of 6 a.m. Wed

Level	24-hr. Chng.
Aberdeen	160.31 +0.00
Columbus	163.40 +0.09
Bevill	136.47 +0.16

**MOON PHASES**  
 New First Full Last  
 Apr. 19th Apr. 27th May 5th Apr. 13th

**SUN AND MOON**

	Wed	Thu
Sunrise	6:34 AM	7:18 PM
Sunset	7:17 PM	7:18 PM
Moonrise	8:01 PM	9:04 PM
Moonset	6:53 AM	7:21 AM

**SOLUNAR TABLE**  
 The solar period indicates peak-feeding times for fish and game.

Hours	Fri
Major	12:09a 12:53a
Minor	6:30a 6:59a
Major	12:30p 1:16p
Minor	7:37p 8:40p

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# Opinion

THE DISPATCH

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OUR VIEW

## An end to rumors of a MSMS departure from Columbus

Contrary to what you may have heard through the grapevine, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science is not considering relocating from the campus of Mississippi University for Women to Mississippi State. At least that's what MSMS executive director Donald Cook and multiple other sources close to the school said Wednesday when we asked about it. "I don't know who starts these rumors, but that is strictly a rumor," Cook said. We're relieved. Since its first class in Sep-

tember of 1988, MSMS has been located on the campus of MUW. Its students, teachers, staff have not only established the residential high school for juniors and seniors as one of the top high schools in the nation, but they have also deeply ingrained themselves into the broader Columbus community. MSMS in Columbus makes possible Tales from the Crypt, 8th of May Emancipation Celebration and engaging summer camps for middle and high schoolers. The students often host tutoring sessions for other area schools too. MSMS teachers add an intellectual el-

ement to the city in the same way MUW does. MSMS represents the state well and adds significantly to the cultural fabric of Columbus. Few probably understand the value of the school better than Cook, who was a member of the school's very first graduating class in 1990. Like so many MSMS students over the past years, Cook arrived on the MUW campus as a high school junior from a small town. Not every high school junior or senior could manage the responsibility of living

away from home at that age, and parents of MSMS students have put a tremendous amount of faith in MSMS and MUW for keeping their children safe for decades. It's a decision no family takes lightly, and MUW is an ideal college host. MUW's enrollment this year is 2,339. Just 381 of those students live on campus. It's a small, intimate population, and over the years, MUW's staff and students have developed an almost familial interest in these high school students. It's a safe place for young people, with

fewer distractions and temptations than you would find on a larger campus. It's hard to imagine MSMS anywhere other than Columbus, where bonds have been formed over the years. MSMS is a big thing here. It would be a small fish in a big pond if it were located at MSU. Rumors can be destructive, but sometimes they can also serve a good purpose. Maybe this rumor will be a reminder of the value of the school to this community and a prompt to local state lawmakers to ensure proper funding is in place for the school.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE  
Letters to the editor

### Appreciates local government action on convenience store drug

On behalf of the Crime and Addiction Task Force of Lowndes County which came into existence because of the efforts of the Create Foundation headquartered in Tupelo we want to thank the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors and the Columbus City Council for their unanimous vote to ban Tianeptine, also known as Za-Za and gas station heroin. Several years ago both the Board of Supervisors and the City Council passed the kratom band. This set the example for the rest of the state and enabled our committee to go throughout the State of Mississippi to convince other counties and cities to enact similar bans. This effort saved lives and families and kept them from experiencing the devastation that we learned of from so many sources. Thanks also to those in law enforcement who work on a daily basis to rid our community of the danger of illegal drugs and drug abuse. **Glenn Lautzenhiser**  
Chairman, Crime and Addiction Task Force of Lowndes County

### Old school

When I was in good ole Lee High 64 years ago, pronouns, adjectives, verbs and other parts of the English language gave me fits. English was not one of my strong suits. I was not a good student and much of all the curriculum of the day wasn't important. Cars and girls were the priority that day. How things have changed. Today pronouns, him, her, he, she are an issue. God created two sexes. He and she period. No amount of surgery can change your God-given DNA. What you want to identify as, I don't care, just don't try to cram it down my throat. God help us!

**Lee Roy Lollar**  
Columbus

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

### TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, April 6, the 96th day of 2023. There are 269 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 6, 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

### On this date:

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Shiloh began in Tennessee as Confederate forces launched a surprise attack against Union troops, who beat back the Confederates the next day.

In 1864, Louisiana opened a convention in New Orleans to draft a new state constitution, one that called for the abolition of slavery.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

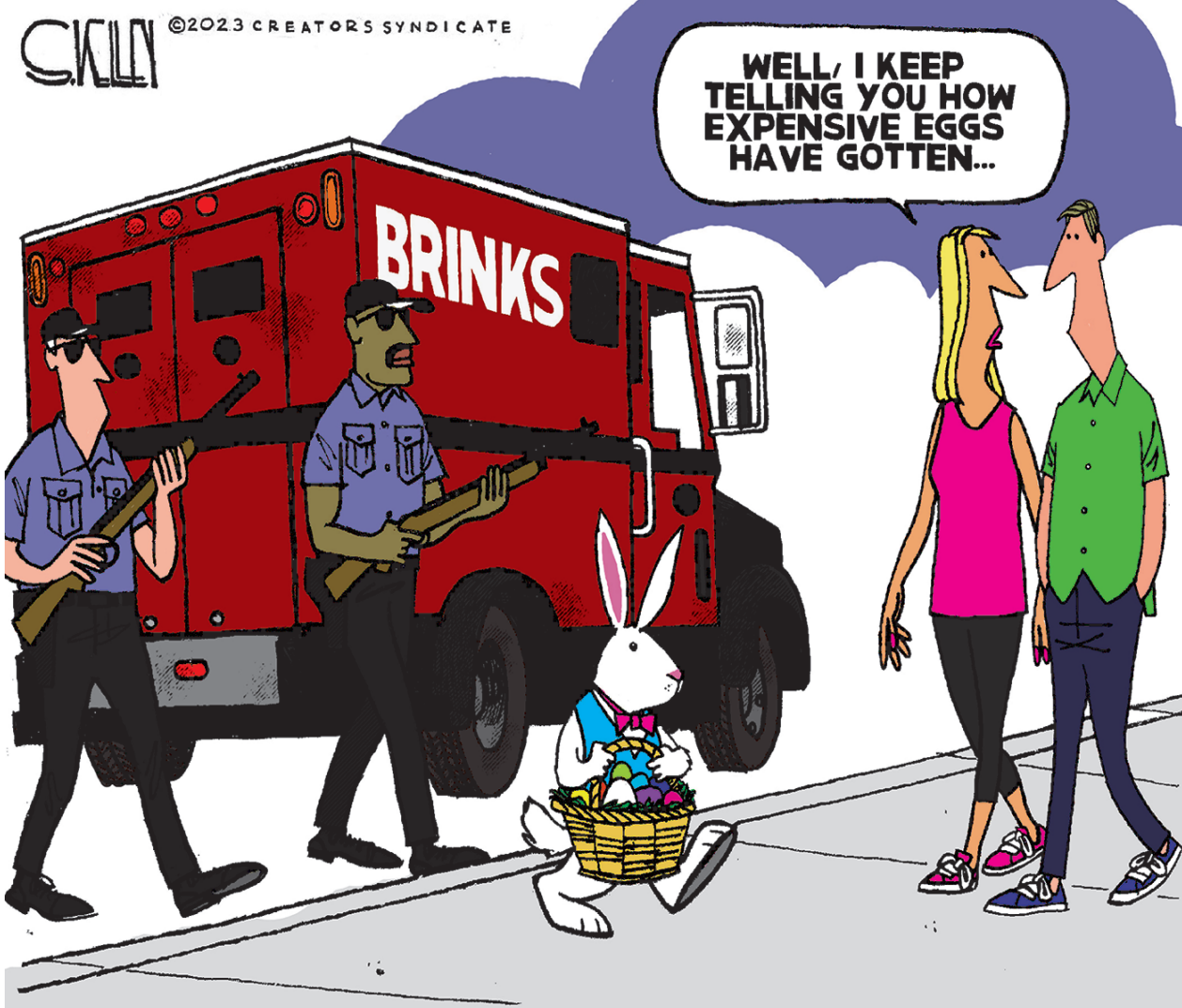
In 1917, the United States entered World War I as the House joined the Senate in approving a declaration of war against Germany that was then signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1943, "Le Petit Prince" (The Little Prince) by Antoine de Saint-Exupery was first published by Reynal & Hitchcock of New York.

In 1945, during World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.

In 1954, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., responding to CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow's broadside against him on "See It Now," said in remarks filmed for the program that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1968, 41 people were killed by two consecutive natural gas explosions at a sporting goods store in downtown Richmond, Indiana.



### THE NATION

## News that makes you sick

In 2016, the prolific author and economist Thomas Sowell gave up his syndicated column after a quarter-century. A few months later, I asked him how it felt. He was delighted. The best part, he confided, was not having to read the news so assiduously every day.



Mona Charen

Hoo boy. "I feel ya," as Ted Lasso might say. Aware that my own consumption of news was depressing me, I lit up upon finding that the BBC had inaugurated a podcast devoted entirely to good news. It promised stories like a man saving a family from a burning house and a kid who raised money for Ukraine.

What a relief! Except, when you try to click on the podcast, you find the message "Sorry, this episode is not currently available." Figures.

Over just the past several days, we've been subjected to news stories like the woman who opened fire at a Nashville school killing three adults and three children; Russia is placing tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus; a bunch of Stanford Law students shouted down a federal appeals court judge, and the administrator in the room, instead of admonishing the students, joined in condemning the speaker; Israel is in more domestic turmoil than at any time in its history; the Ukrainians are running out of ammunition; and a new survey finds that the percentage of American adults who say patriotism is "very important" to them has dropped from 70 in 1998 to 38 today.

And all of that is on top of the fact that a feral, mentally unstable arsonist is the leading candidate for the Republican nomination for president again.

The news we consume is depressing and demoralizing us. The American Psychological Association estimates that "media saturation overload" — or, more colorfully, "doomscrolling" — is damaging the mental health of many people. It's not just that the news is bad. When has it not been? Planes landing safely do not merit mention. No, in our age, the way many of us get news is in prepackaged units wrapped in outrage and blame. The more angry a headline makes you, the more likely you are to click through and read the story or watch the video. It's not just that children are lying in pools of blood in classrooms; it's that those people you hate are letting this happen by a) resisting gun control or b) voting for Soros-backed prosecutors who won't enforce the law. Our heads are exploding not because we've lost our self-control but because we're ingesting news that is designed for that purpose. It's like dining on arsenic and then being surprised that we're sick.

This news menu has torn us apart more thoroughly than any foreign enemy could. Even stories that aren't twisted beyond recognition are tweaked for maximum clicks and thereby shaded to sound more ominous than necessary. Consider the poll cited above about patriotism. The Wall Street Journal article about the poll, conducted jointly by the Journal and NORC at the University of Chicago, is heavy on plunging arrows and dire trends: "Patriotism, religious faith, having children and other priorities that helped define the national character for generations are receding in importance to Americans, a new Wall Street Journal-NORC poll finds." The

article suggests that the only thing Americans now value more than they did in 1998 is money — with 43% of respondents in the new survey rating it as "very important" compared with 31 percent in 1998. Swell.

But when you look at the crosstabs, you discover that while it's true that only 38 percent of respondents said patriotism is "very important" to them, another 35 percent said it was "somewhat important" for a total of 73 percent who still value it. Or, to look at it from the other side, only 27 percent say patriotism is "not important at all" or "not that important." You can make a colorable case that the glass is half-full.

Or consider the U.N. report on climate change. The hysterical headlines are so common that they've given rise to "doomism," the belief that humanity has no future. Many young people are reportedly so pessimistic that they hesitate to start families. "It's fair to say that recently many of us climate scientists have spent more time arguing with the doomers than with the deniers," Zeke Hausfather, a contributing author to the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, told The Washington Post. Climate is a serious challenge, but not even the most alarmed scientists say that humanity is doomed to extinction.

But despair is a sin. More importantly, the evildoers of the world want the rest of us to give up in disgust -- to tune out and leave the field to them. They would like nothing better than for us to conclude that it's hopeless to try to tell the truth; that falsehoods travel faster than facts; and that we will tire of the effort to keep our values and our vision intact. That's the best reason to stay with it.

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

# Obituaries

Continued from Page 2A

## Alavene McGee

COLUMBUS — Alavene McGee, 90, died on April 4, 2023, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Lowndes Funeral Home. Lowndes Funeral Home of Columbus is in charge of arrangements.

## Willie Walker

ALICEVILLE, Ala. — Willie D. "Deacon" Walker, 63, died April 2, 2023. Funeral services will be at noon Friday, at Aliceville City Hall, with Artis Hinton officiating. Burial will follow at Magnolia Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4-6:30 p.m. today, at Lavender's Funeral Service. Lavender's Funeral Service of Aliceville is in charge of arrangements.

## Hugh Hinton

PICKENSVILLE, Ala. — Hugh L. "Space" Hinton, 60, died April 3, 2023, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, at The James & Lola Lavender Memorial Chapel in Aliceville, with Rev. Alfred Cooper officiating. Burial will follow at Magnolia Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from 1-5 p.m. Friday, at Lavender's Funeral Service. Lavender's Funeral Service of Aliceville is in charge of arrangements.

## Trent Graham

MILLPORT, Ala. — Trent Faron Graham, 35, died April 4, 2023. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today, at Dowdle Funeral Home, with Caleb Hughes and Andy Parrish officiat-



Graham

ing. Burial will follow in Springhill Cemetery. Visitation was from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday in the chapel. Dowdle Funeral Home of Millport, Alabama is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Graham was born on Sept. 12, 1987, in Northport, Alabama, to Tommy and Debra Graham. He was a graduate of South Lamar High School. He was formerly employed with Godfrey's Custom Cabinets in Columbus. He was a member of Springhill Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his son, Elijah Reed Graham; and sister, Kristi Ables.

Pallbearers will be Josh McManus, Barry Wilson, Brett Mayers, David Unger, Koby Newman, Chris Godfrey, Bruce Myers and Jim Buck Vaughn.

## Sam Walker

COLUMBUS — Sam Lavell Walker, 55, died March 30, 2023, in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, at Shady Grove M.B. Church in West Point, with Rev. Sammie Hill officiating. Burial will follow at Springfield M.B. Church Cemetery of

Columbus. Visitation will be from 2-6 p.m. today, at Carter's Funeral Services. Carter's Funeral Services of Columbus is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Walker was born on Jan. 21, 1968, in Columbus, to Sadie Walker and the late James Whitfield.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by children, Kelvin Roland, Samuel Jefferson and Zoria Walker, all of Columbus; siblings, Glenda Whitfield, Vincent Walker, Bobby Walker, Amos Walker, Ramonia Brooks, all of Columbus and Latarsha Walker of BaumHolder, Germany; and one grandchild.

## Ida Coley

COLUMBUS — Ida Mae Harris Coley, 79, died March 30, 2023, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle.



Coley

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, at Concord Independent Methodist Church, with Rev. Robert Hamilton officiating. Burial will follow in the church ceme-

tery. Visitation will be from 2-6 p.m. today, at Carter's Funeral Services. Carter's Funeral Services of Columbus is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Coley was born on Feb. 12, 1944, to the late Willie James Harris and Florence Harris. She was a member of Concord Independent Methodist Church. She was formerly employed by Sanderson Plumbing

and Private Homes and New Baptist Temple Head Start.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, David Lee Harris; siblings, Star Lee Harris and Willie C. Harris.

She is survived by her husband, Elijah Coley; children, Raymond Harris, Dennis Ellis, Derrick Ellis, Elijah L. Coley, Willie Coley, Hellen Lewis and Flor-

ence Ellis-Smith, all of Columbus, Necole Ellis-Baker and Donna Ellis-Ponder, both of Clinton, Dennis Ellis Jr., Joia Hardison, Ahzoria Harkins, all of Columbus; siblings, Geraldine Petty, Dian Patmon, Tommie Lee Harris, Odis Will Harris, Sylvester Harris, all of Columbus and Ira B. Harris of Chicago, Illinois; 30 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

## Dr. William Billington, Jr.

Dr. William "Bill" Morgan Billington, Jr. passed away peacefully on April 4, 2023, with his family by his side. He was born January 25, 1947, in Clovis, New Mexico and spent his childhood in small-town Texico, New Mexico as the son of the late William Morgan Billington, Sr. and Ophelia Osbourne Billington. He graduated from Texico High School and went on to work for the United States Department of Agriculture as a crop surveyor.



During the Vietnam War, Bill was placed in the United States Army Security Agency, where he trained in radio communications and cryptography. He served in the United States Army Security Agency in locations both at home and abroad: Asbury Park, New Jersey; Clark Air Base in the Philippines; the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.; and in Munich, Germany.

After his military service, he graduated with honors from Eastern New Mexico University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. During his collegiate years, he also served as pledge class president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

Bill was truly a modern-day Renaissance man. He worked as a stocks and commodities broker at Clayton Brokerage in San Antonio, Texas, and as an underground miner and dynamiter at Duval Mining Corporation in Carlsbad, New Mexico before entering medical school at the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine. He graduated in the top quartile of his class in 1978 and went on to complete a family medicine internship and become board-certified by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

In 1979, Dr. Billington - known to many of his beloved patients as simply "Dr. B" - moved to West Point, Mississippi, to establish the Family Medical Clinic. His newfound clinic quickly became a cornerstone in the community due to Dr. B's encyclopedic medical knowledge, his welcoming bedside manner, and a penchant for jokes...but something was still missing, until his nurse introduced him to the charming born-and-raised West Pointian named Debbie Kay Hill.

It was April Fools' Day 1982 that they announced they would be married - and everyone thought the playful couple was teasing! But on August 7, 1982, Bill and Debbie were indeed married at the altar of First Baptist Church. Their aspirational forty years of marriage formed the foundation of what would become "Team Billington," the term coined by Bill to describe his large, incredibly close family. With Debbie by his side as the clinic manager Dr. Billington treated over 42,000 patients throughout his distinguished forty-year medical career, serving the West Point community and beyond.

In his younger years, Bill loved to ride his motorcycle, until a crash when Debbie was eight months pregnant brought both the bike - and the hobby - to a halt. He was also a proud pilot of a small Cessna aircraft, which he flew until his family outnumbered the available seating. An avid traveler, Bill then began his foray as captain of the trusty 26-foot van which helped him take his family to forty-nine of the fifty states. He enjoyed snow-skiing, archery, traveling, open water scuba diving, and writing. He had been working on his first novel. Bill was also an adventurous world traveler. From ziplining in Belize to sharing bananas with Costa Rican monkeys, from Austria's Vienna Operahouse to Bavaria's Neuschwanstein Castle, from Czech Republic's Charles Bridge to France's Notre Dame?Bill was truly an explorer who wanted to see all that the world had to offer. But where he loved best was at home with his family in West Point, MS, with his beloved pup Caesar by his side.

Both family physician and family man, Bill never missed his children's t-ball/baseball/soccer/track/tennis/basketball games, piano recitals, Bible drills, school plays, church programs, or graduations. Our family will forever treasure the memories he made with us, and we hope to carry on his storied legacy of kindness, compassion, courage, and Christian faith. He was quick with a megawatt smile and a witty joke, but he was always quickest in telling us how much he loved us. Bill was an endlessly devoted husband, a fiercely supportive dad, and a joyful new grandfather - also known as "GrandDoc."

He held a wide variety of leadership roles throughout his life, including serving as Chief of Staff of North Mississippi Medical Center in West Point, Medical Director of West Point Nursing Home, and Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Prairie Medical Society. Dr. Billington also volunteered as the team physician for the Oak Hill Academy Raiders for many years. He was a former member of the West Point Rotary Club and former board member of BancorpSouth in West Point. Dr. Billington was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of West Point, where he was a deacon, a member of the Spradling Sunday School Class, and member of the Security Committee, as well as other various committees.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved in-laws, Bernard Wallace "B.W." and Ruth Gary Hill; and an infant son. We are blessed to know that our family will one day be reunited in Heaven.

Dr. Billington is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years, Debbie Hill Billington; their four children, William Morgan Billington, III (Katie) and Gary Steele Billington (Dr. Elyse) all of Charlotte, North Carolina; Ross Wallace Billington (Lorianna) of Starkville, Mississippi; Lauren Renee Billington of Jackson, Mississippi; two grandsons, William Morgan Billington, IV and Avery Alexander Billington; as well as sister, Jill Beard (Don) of Lubbock, Texas; nieces, Heather Sullivan (James) of Lubbock, Texas, and Michelle Clevenger (Scott) of Hart, Texas; sister-in-law, Donna Ross (Scott) of West Point, Mississippi; niece, Katherine Ross Stringer (Glen) of Columbia, Mississippi; nephew, Stephen Scott Ross of West Point, Mississippi; and great-nephew, Ross Edward Stringer.

Visitation will be on Friday, April 7, 2023, from 5:00-7:00 P.M. at Calvert Funeral Home in West Point and one hour prior to the funeral service on Saturday at First Baptist Church in West Point. Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 11:00 AM at First Baptist Church of West Point, with the Reverend Dale Funderburg officiating. Burial will follow in Greenwood Cemetery in West Point. Calvert Funeral Home in West Point is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements.

Pallbearers will be Bobby Cole, Jeff Foster, Edgar Harris, Keith Holton, Gregg Kaiser, Steve McKinney, Stanley Spradling and Wes Williamson.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jerry Collins, William Downer, Dr. Terry French, Dr. Ned Miller, Dr. Hal Posey, Dr. William Sartin, the members of Spradling Sunday School Class, and his former staff members at Family Medical Center and Medical Center Pharmacy, as well as the North Mississippi Medical Center staff.

Our family would also like to especially thank Bill's devoted caregivers: Minnie Pearl Booker, Jerry Collins, Betty Davis and Jeanette Smith.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Music Ministry, P.O. Box 794, West Point, Mississippi 39773 or Canopy Children's Solutions, P.O. Box 1078, Jackson, Mississippi 39215.

*Paid Obituary-Calvert Funeral Home*

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- We PROMISE our cremation services are completed with identification each step of the process.



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## Carole Moss

Carole Harrison Moss passed peacefully from this world to the next on April 4, 2023, at her home. She was the youngest daughter born to James and Betty Shoemaker Harrison on July 12, 1963, in Bloomington, Illinois. They moved to Caledonia in 1966, and she always considered herself an original Caledonian, deeming everyone who moved there after 1990 as "foreigners". (You know who you are.) She married Doug Moss on July 9, 1993, and was equal parts dismayed and amused when he became even more of a Caledonian than she was.



Carole was not a social butterfly by any stretch of the imagination, but she was a loyal friend as long as you didn't make her mad. She was known for her ability to carry a grudge forever, a trait that she came by honestly from her dad, Jimmy. If you were lucky enough to be her friend on Facebook, congratulations. She kept her friends list at fifteen people, period. Carole worked for Lighting Unlimited until she was able to use Covid as an excuse to retire in March of 2020. She was a talented furniture painter, but customer service was not her strong suit due to her complete inability to hide her facial expressions. Despite her grumpy exterior, she had many customers who considered her a friend. She will be remembered as a genius at genealogy, a knowledgeable gardener, and a terrible driver who would go miles out of her way to avoid making a left turn into a parking lot. Most of all she will be remembered for her beautiful smile and her wicked sense of humor.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and her brother, Jimmy.

She will be sorely missed by her husband, Doug; her children Jason Harrison, Jana Moss and Justin (Jessica) Moss; and her grandchildren, Savannah Moss, Maris James and Sophia Absher. She also leaves behind her sister, Janet Hudson; brother, Ricky Harrison; brother-in-law, Bill (Ruthie) Moss, special friend, Melanie Scutella; and her Lighting Unlimited family, Scott, Helen and Cara Pridmore, Chase Hazard, Suzy Huckaby and Debbie Parker.

A private family graveside service will be held at a later date.

Memorials can be made to the donor's charity of choice, or better yet, spend the money on a double cheeseburger and an ice cold beer. Carole would approve.

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Subject: Religious brief

# Funding in hand to build new MHP station

## Legislature gives project \$10 million over past two years

BY ABIGAIL SIPE ROCHESTER  
arochester@cdispatch.com

**OKTIBBEHA COUNTY** – This year’s legislative appropriations bill included \$6 million to help build a new headquarters for Mississippi Highway Patrol Troop G at Cornerstone Park.



**Roberson**

Once complete, it will replace the existing substation on Mississippi State University property at the Highway 182 and East Lee Boulevard intersection.

Talks of the new substation have been ongoing for years. The Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority donated a parcel at Cornerstone Park to the MHP in 2013.

District 43 Rep. Rob Roberson (R-Starkville) said the upgrade is long overdue.

“The reality was that we’re the last Highway Patrol station

to get fixed or (replaced),” Roberson said. “We’ve been on the project list for the past 15 or 20 years, and the outdated ... station that we’re in has outlived its ability to do what needs to be done.”

Roberson said the new location will have helicopter pads for emergency services and space for drug enforcement offices. He called it a “total change” for how the troop operates.

Over the past two sessions, the legislature has put \$10 million toward the project, which Roberson said was enough to get it built. Construction should start later this year.

“I’m proud that it’s finally getting finished,” Roberson said.

### Starkville

The city received \$2 million for its planned Main Street Redesign Project in the appropriations bill. This continued funding will help to support the redesign of the roadways and the expansion of the sidewalks on Main Street.

“Thank you to our legislators in getting us that \$2 million for our Main Street Project,” May-

or Lynn Spruill said. “I’m very excited about that and very grateful that they’re helping us move that forward.”

The Main Street Redesign Project will compress the street and eliminate turn lanes to create a larger “pedestrian zone” on Main Street. This will give businesses the ability to set up outdoor seating and spaces on the sidewalk.

The project will narrow the stretch of Main Street east of City Hall, create outdoor event space and increase pedestrian access.

Spruill said the Main Street Project has increased from a \$10 million project to almost \$12 million, but the \$2 million should help to complete the “next phase.” She previously said the city had \$4.5 million in commitments toward the project before getting the newest appropriation.

She said the road may be completed in sections over time, and that city leaders will also be looking to reduce costs as the project continues.



**Spruill**

“When the Main Street Project was originally designed, we thought that we would take it all the way from City Hall all the way down to Montgomery Street,” Spruill said. “But it may very well be that we can get two blocks done – by that I mean to the Jackson Street intersection and then skip the part between Jackson Street and Montgomery – and then take care of the Montgomery street intersection.”

Spruill said the city will continue to look for more money from other sources, like bonds, to complete the Main Street Project.

### Oktibbeha County

The legislature also committed \$1 million to Oktibbeha County to help fund the construction of a new administrative building at the site of the old Felix Long Hospital.

The county controls the old hospital site that had been used for office space before deteriorating conditions led supervisors to relocate those agencies – including Extension and the Department of Human Services – to a building on Lynn Lane.

County supervisors are now

seeking to demolish the old hospital and board president Orlando Trainer said the county has set aside \$500,000 in bond money toward that end.

He said the county will also be trying to get “other sources of funding” to cover the rest of construction “in a reasonable time frame.”

“We have some other avenues through which we’re trying to get allocations on the federal level,” Trainer said. “We’re working hard with our congressional representatives.”

Trainer said the board does not have total cost estimates for the new building yet, but Major Design Studios of Columbus is working to create a preliminary design.

In other appropriations, county volunteer fire departments at Adaton Self Creek, Central Oktibbeha, Maben and Sturgis each received \$50,000 for “various department costs.” The Maben station received an additional \$50,000 for roof repairs.



**Trainer**

## Appropriations

Continued from Page 1A

The CRA was founded in 2015 and set up with \$3.2 million in bond money to buy dilapidated and vacant property in Burns Bottom and redevelop it.

The CRA went to Columbus City Council in February 2022 with a request for \$6.5 million to finish out the project, but the council never acted on the request, leading to the CRA turning to the state.

### Amphitheater

The city was unsuccessful in a \$4 million funding request to complete the Terry Brown Amphitheater located on The Island across from the Riverwalk.

It was given \$3.2 million in 2015 to build the structure that exists today, which includes a stage, some concrete work for the seating area and the existing fencing. The state pitched in another \$500,000 in 2019 but hasn’t given anything since.

It still needs bathrooms, concession stands, 1,700 hardback seats, turnstiles and safety features such as gating and more fencing. The remainder of the 3,500 seats would be in the grassy area.

Mayor Keith Gaskin said Wednesday he is disappointed the funding didn’t materialize.

“There is a lot of mon-

ey in Jackson right now,” he said. “... There’s been a lot of debate about how much skin in the game the city has. I would argue the city has a lot of skin in the game trying to maintain that albatross over there without the funding to move forward.”

He said the city had to “pivot” and look for other sources.

“One thing we have looked at and need to be more serious in looking at is if there is a public-private possibility with private investment,” he said.



**Gaskin**

“... We’ve taken several political leaders out to see it and private investors to look at it, and every time their first comment is, ‘Wow, I didn’t expect it to look this good.’”

### Caledonia

The town of Caledonia got a total of \$500,000 in two allotments: \$350,000 for lighting upgrades at Ola J. Pickett Park and \$150,000 to aid in purchasing or upgrading equipment.

Mayor Betty Darnell told The Dispatch new lights are badly needed at the older fields at the park, whose lights are outdated. She couldn’t say how far that money would go.

“It’s been over a year since we’ve gotten pricing for those fields,” she said. “There are five fields, and the three that are the old-



**Darnell**

est are what they’re looking at primarily. We just don’t know how far this money will go with the way prices have gone up recently.”

Darnell said the board of aldermen had not yet decided what equipment the \$150,000 will go toward.

“Our board will look at the needs and see what the priorities are,” she said. “There are so many needs and they will prioritize what’s most important.”

## AROUND THE STATE

### Mississippi deputy on leave after fatal shooting near church

**LAUREL** – A man was fatally shot outside a Mississippi church during a confrontation with an off-duty sheriff’s deputy who is now on administrative leave, authorities said Wednesday.

Ryan Walters, a Jones County reserve deputy, is both a parishioner and member of the church’s

security team, Sheriff Joe Berlin said according to WDAM-TV.

A service was underway Sunday evening when James Corey Donald, 45, was shot in the parking lot of The Rock Church near the city of Laurel, Berlin said.

The sheriff said a church security team member had approached Donald before the shooting. There was an alterca-

tion, and Donald reached for the security member’s gun, according to Berlin.

A bullet hit Donald in the upper torso, Berlin said. The sheriff did not specify who pulled the trigger or provide details.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, which handles officer-involved shootings, has taken the case. The agency confirmed Monday that Donald died from his injuries.

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*Package B* \$200 gift card to Ashley Homestore, fragrance basket from and \$25 gift card to Belk, \$50 gift card to The Burning Piano, \$25 gift card to Downtown Nutrition and a \$25 gift card to Wines, Etc.

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Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

When was the last time you picked up a piece of litter?

COLLEGE GOLF

## MSU takes third overall at home tournament

### Logan paces Bulldogs at Mossy Oak Collegiate

BY ALEX MURPHY  
amurphy@cdispach.com

WEST POINT — There's no place like home, and for Mississippi State men's golf senior Hunter Logan, home is West Point's Mossy Oak Golf Club.

The No. 21 Bulldogs held their annual home tournament, the Mossy Oak Collegiate, over the last two days, finishing third among 18 teams with a cumulative 38-under over three rounds.

Logan was the big hitter amongst the group, pacing the Bulldogs with

a 64 in the second round as he finished with a 54-hole career-low of 12-under.

"For me, it's just a lot of experience on the course," Logan said. "It's our home golf course, so I play there a lot and know the greens pretty well. I think another thing was preparation, having a good couple weeks of work, good couple weeks of practice."

Career and program records were set on Tuesday, setting up for an exciting finish to the regular season at the Mason Ru-

dolph Championship next week.

"It was great being in the thick of it," Mississippi State head coach Dusty Smith said. "Our goal is always to have a chance of winning a golf tournament with nine holes to go and we put ourselves in the position to do that."

The Bulldogs lost by two strokes to No. 15 Tennessee, shooting 6-under in the last round while the Volunteers went off, shooting 13-under in the final round.

Tuesday saw Mississippi State shoot a pro-

gram-record 265 in the second round, a cumulative 23-under, highlighted by Logan's 64, shooting 6-under on the back nine.

"In that second round when he birdied 9, 10, 11 and 12, you're just kind of looking at that and you're knowing that Hunter is playing the golf course like he typically does," Smith said. "I've seen him do that quite a bit when he's playing in qualifying."

Over a nine-hole stretch, Logan shot 7-under, attacking the back nine well, something Smith said is typical of him when playing on  
*See GOLF, 3B*



Mike Mattina/Mississippi State athletics

Mississippi State men's golf senior Hunter Logan surveys his putt during the second day of the Mossy Oak Invitational at Mossy Oak Golf Course in West Point, MS. Logan shot a 54-hole career-low 12-under for the Bulldogs, who finished third overall, two shots behind team champion Tennessee.

OLE MISS BASEBALL

## Ole Miss looks to change SEC fortunes as No. 5 Arkansas comes to Oxford

BY MICHAEL KATZ  
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal

OXFORD — Ole Miss' quest for an SEC series win doesn't get any easier this weekend.

The Rebels (17-11, 1-8 SEC) dropped two of three games in College Station against Texas A&M and were swept by Vanderbilt and Florida in their first two series.

A quartet of freshman pitchers were solid in a midweek matchup at Memphis Tuesday night, as starter Grayson Saunier pitched a solid five innings and the offense did its part with five two-out RBIs.

The win also vaulted head coach Mike Bianco out of a tie for second-place with wins among SEC coaches with his former head coach and mentor, LSU's Skip Bertman. Bianco now stands alone in second with 871 victories.

"When you have those longevity type of records, accolades or whatever you want to call them, I've been here a long time, and so it means that I've had a lot of really good players along the way and a lot of good coaches," Bianco said in his postgame radio interview with Brad Henderson. "I don't mean that as just coach's speak or being humble. You don't get here and get that many wins because you're a good coach. You do it because you have some good coaches next to you, and certainly have some great players."

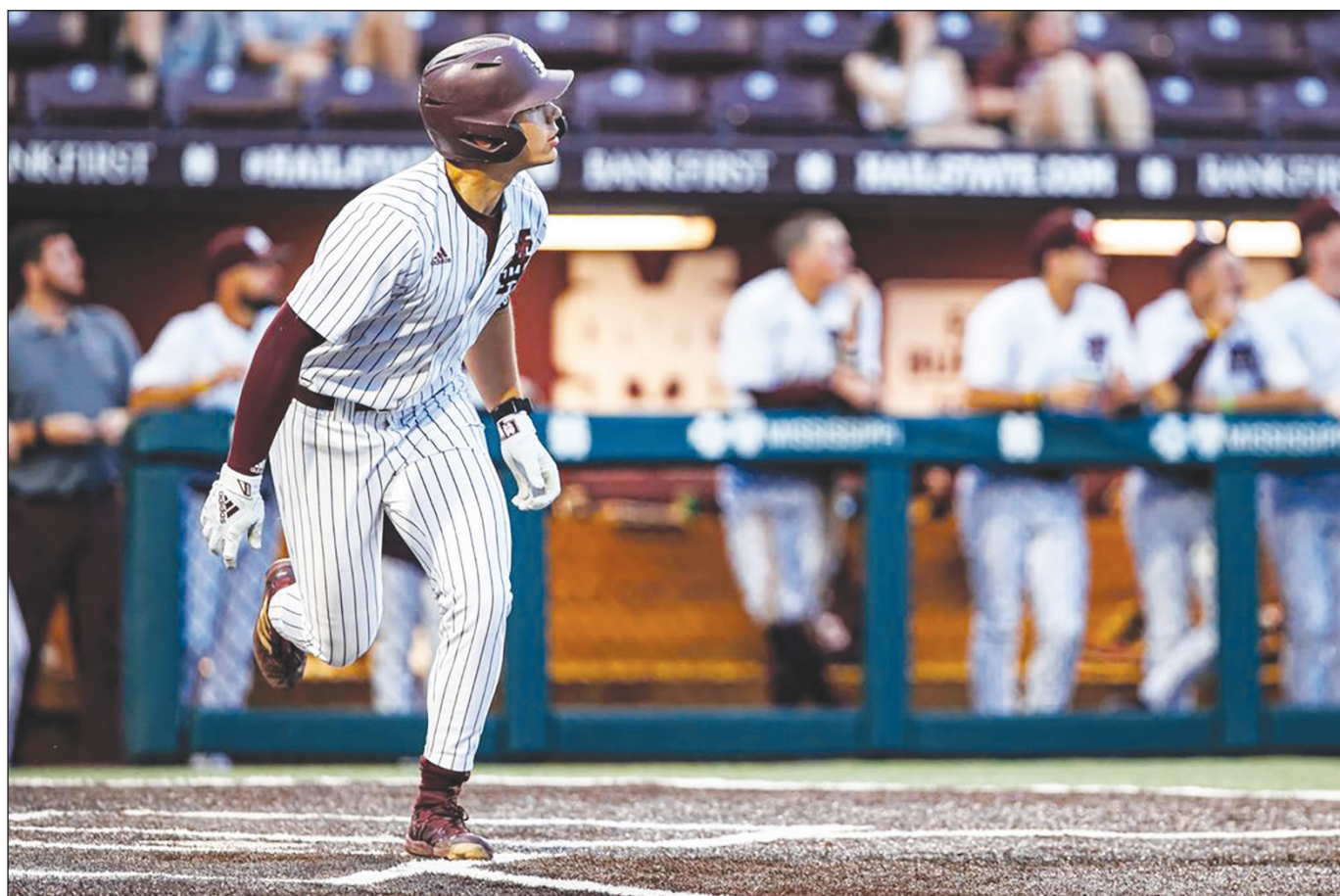
Up next for the Rebels is No. 5 Arkansas for a three-game set at Swayze Field starting Thursday. First pitch in Game 1 is 6:30 p.m., and the game will be broadcast on SEC Network+. Junior Jack Dougherty is scheduled to start Thursday, followed by junior Xavier Rivas and freshman J.T. Quinn.

The Razorbacks (23-5, 6-3) are coming off a series win over Alabama. The

*See OLE MISS, 2B*

MISSISSIPPI STATE BASEBALL

## Bulldogs looking to turn the tide in crossroad battle with Bama



Ivy Ball/Mississippi State athletics

Mississippi State infielder Slate Alford (24) during Tuesday night's game against Grambling State. Alford hit a grand slam and recorded five RBIs in a 21-2 win for the Bulldogs.

BY COLIN DAMMS  
cdamms@cdispach.com

Mississippi State head coach Chris Lemonis said last week he likes his team to feel relaxed, and that's certainly the impression they gave in their 21-2 win over Grambling State on Tuesday.

The Bulldogs brushed off a first-pitch home run for the third-straight game

to score 19 runs in the first two innings.

It was easy on the night to relax, but it's a more difficult balancing act in a league like the Southeastern Conference, where there is already a lot of ground to make up.

"That's probably one of the harder dynamics when you play at schools like this where the expectation is so high," Lemonis said.

"That's the balancing act we're trying to figure out. Our guys are doing a pretty good job of it right now. We're just trying to get better."

The Bulldogs (17-13, 1-8 SEC) are in need of a quick turnaround, but their next series in Tuscaloosa will be anything but.

Alabama (22-8, 3-6 SEC) similarly lost three-straight SEC series to begin confer-

ence play, salvaging a game from each.

The Crimson Tide present a tough test offensively as they've allowed more than five runs in just a third of their conference games so far.

"They had a really good start," Lemonis said of Alabama on Tuesday. "They're probably disappointed in a game or two in the SEC."

*See BULLDOGS, 2B*

MISSISSIPPI STATE FOOTBALL

## Zavion Thomas ready to run it back on special teams

BY ALEX MURPHY  
amurphy@cdispach.com

STARKVILLE — It's hard to miss Mississippi State sophomore receiver Zavion Thomas on social media.

One of the more outspoken voices for the Bulldogs, he and senior Lideatrick "Tulu" Griffin haven't been shy about showcasing and sharing their personalities.

The same is true on the football field as they've created one of the best special teams tandems in college football.

"Tulu is really my big brother," Thomas said. "He guided me on special teams because he was doing it when he first

got here. He let me know about the small things and how to get better."

Thomas got limited time as a receiver last season, but shined as a punt returner, earning Freshman All-American first-team honors as he was second in the Southeastern Conference and fifth in the nation with 13.5 return yards on average.

"It was just taking advantage of my opportunity," Thomas said. "That's all it really was. I had guys in front of me last year. Getting into special teams, just making plays for my team to win."

Thomas has seen time this spring on the offensive side of the ball, getting involved in offensive

coordinator Kevin Barbay's new schemes for the Bulldogs.

Barbay has put an added emphasis on the run game, and that's included receivers like Thomas, getting the ball on a sweep to the outside.

The initial adjustments have been welcomed from him and the wide receiver committee.

"It's a lot more deep shots," Thomas said. "Coach Barbay, Coach Bumphis, they're giving us a lot of opportunities to go get the ball. ... Coach Barbay wants to add a little sauce to it, keep the defense honest."

Being used in a number of different offensive sets,  
*See FOOTBALL, 2B*



Kevin Snyder/Mississippi State athletics

Mississippi State wide receiver/returner Zavion Thomas (87) during his punt return touchdown against Georgia in November 2022. Thomas was a Freshman All-American first team selection for his special teams success for the Bulldogs in 2022.

# Ole Miss star Matt Murrell declares for NBA Draft, will maintain eligibility

BY MICHAEL KATZ  
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal



Murrell

his led the Rebels in scoring last season at 14.4 points per game. "I am excited for the next chapter of my basketball journey and

I want to thank you for being a major part of it," Murrell wrote in part. Murrell is able to work out for NBA teams in the coming weeks and receive feedback on his draft stock as long as he uses an "NCAA-certified agent," per the NCAA. He can still return to the

Rebels for the 2023 season. He will have 10 days following the NBA Draft Combine — May 31 — to decide whether or not he wants to return for his senior season. The combine begins May 15, and the draft will be held June 22, per USA Today's Rookie Wire.

## Scheffler looks primed for rare Masters double

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGUSTA, Ga. — There are plenty of perks that come from being the reigning Masters champion. You have a year to don that cherished green jacket wherever you want. You can nab a tee time at Augusta National without any hassles. You get to select the menu for the champions dinner. And getting to do it all over again? Well, that's a truly exclusive club.

Every year, the previous winner is sure to be reminded that only three players have ever won two straight Masters. What a group it is. Jack Nicklaus. Nick Faldo. Tiger Woods. It was no different Tuesday for Scottie Scheffler, the latest player with a chance to join that illustrious trio. The second question — and several others that followed — focused on what it would mean to go back to back. "Any time you can get

mentioned in the same breath as a Tiger and a Jack and a Nick Faldo is really special," Scheffler said.

But, he was quick to add, "It's not a motivating factor for me." Scheffler knows it's tough enough to put together two straight shots that go where you want, so the odds of syncing up four stellar rounds at Augusta National — then four more a year later — are steep indeed.

That said, the 26-year-old Texan is the betting favorite — along with Rory McIlroy, according to FanDuel Sportsbook — as he sets his sights on another green jacket.

With good reason. Scheffler is ranked No. 1 in the world. He's already got a pair of victories this year. He's finished inside the top 12 of his last nine events.

Not since Jordan Spieth in 2016 has a player arrived at the Masters with such heightened expectations of a repeat. Doing his best to make it feel like any other week

— or at least a week before he won the Masters — Scheffler came out early Sunday and got a round in with his sister, Callie, on his bag.

"I tried to get a little bit of the memories and stuff from last year out of the way as early as I could," he said.

But those memories — and reminders — linger at every turn.

"It's a bit different, when you see the list of guys when they get in the tournament and how they qualify," Scheffler said, "and you see 'Lifetime Exemption' by your name I think is really cool. Hopefully I'll have the opportunity to be coming back to this place for many years."

Woods, who went back to back in 2001-02, was asked what it takes to accomplish such a rare feat.

Familiarity with the course, and all its idiosyncrasies, was at the top of his list.

"What has allowed some of us to defend the title is understanding how to play it," Woods said.

"Scottie knows how to play this golf course."

It helps to have a guy like Ted Scott on the bag. He was the caddie for Bubba Watson during his two Masters victories, and he was at Scheffler's side a year ago.

"I think the teamwork of player and caddie is so important here because there's so many variables that go on," Woods said. "The lies, the wind, the gusts, and knowledge of the golf course. There's so many things that can happen, and talking through each and every shot. We just don't go out there and say, 'Yeah, you know, I have 152 yards, just go ahead and hit it.'"

A year ago, Scheffler took command with a second-round 67 that sent him to the weekend with a five-shot lead.

He wavered a bit on a windy Saturday, but bounced back for a 71 that kept his lead at three strokes. The final round was largely a victory lap as Scheffler wasn't seriously threatened after the first couple of holes.

## Bulldogs

Continued from Page 1B

but our whole league is tough. Not many easy teams. They have some power arms. They've pitched well, defended well, played well. They've been a top-25 team until the last week or so."

Alabama's pitching has been a particular strength, posting a 3.76 staff ERA coming into Thursday, but a concern for the Tide is close games as all six of the Tide's SEC losses have been decided by four

runs or less.

Their strength of schedule at the start of SEC play has been equally tough with Mississippi State as both teams have faced two top-10 opponents each, but with seven SEC teams ranked in the top-11 according to D1Baseball, this weekend is a series for the taking.

"I do. I mean, we have to," Lemonis said of feeling the sense of urgency to improve. "We can't sit

back and wait and think it's going to happen. We've got to go and take care of things this weekend and play good baseball."

The Bulldogs gave themselves some confidence with their first two performances against South Carolina, but collapsed in the series finale, giving up 11 runs over the final three innings in a 14-5 loss.

It's a harsh reminder of the improvement

required in order to compete at the level expected of them, but something they must shake off before the start of their next series at 6 p.m. Thursday.

"The message has been about getting better every day," Lemonis continued. "Get to Tuscaloosa, get a couple of wins and get back home, and just keep playing. It's all we can control right now."

## Ole Miss

Continued from Page 1B

last time Ole Miss and Arkansas played was in the 2022 College World Series, where the teams met three times. The Rebels' eliminated the Razorbacks to reach the championship series on the shoulders of a complete-game gem from Dylan DeLucia. Ole Miss then swept Oklahoma to win its first College World Series title.

Arkansas' offense is paced by outfielder Jared Wegner, who has 12 home runs and boasts a .370 batting average. Razorbacks pitcher Hagen Smith leads the team with a 2.35 ERA, which ranks in the top-50 nationally, and is a perfect 5-0. He also leads the staff with 45 strikeouts, though he has also walked 20. Smith has come out of the bullpen in each of his last four ap-



Bella Wood/Ole Miss athletics

Ole Miss, coming off a 7-2 midweek victory at Memphis, looks to get its first Southeastern Conference series win under its belt as the Rebels host No. 5 Arkansas in Oxford for a three-game set beginning Thursday night.

pearances after starting in his first four games.

Following three games with Arkansas,

Ole Miss hosts Memphis and Alcorn State on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, before

starting a three-game series with Mississippi State in Starkville Friday.

## Football

Continued from Page 1B

the coaching staff has been key toward Thomas's development during the spring as he looks to be used not just on special teams, but to be a consistent offensive contributor. "They're just letting me know that I can do anything on the field,"

Thomas said. "Just having confidence that they're instilling in my head that I can do it."

In talking about the defense, Thomas wasn't quick to give any kudos to individual players on the other side of the ball. Like on social media,

he is unapologetically himself, and it's played out the same on the football field.

"I mean, hats to the defense, but I'm Zavion, ain't nobody giving me trouble," Thomas said.

Last year was the appetizer, and for Thomas, he's

gearing up for the 2023 season to be the main entree, especially reprising that special teams role for the Bulldogs.

"It's going to be exciting," Thomas said. "It's going to be better this year, trust me."

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# CALENDAR

## Today

### COLLEGE BASEBALL

6 p.m.: Mississippi State at Alabama  
6:30 p.m.: Arkansas at Ole Miss

### PREP BASEBALL

4 p.m.: Heritage Academy at Washington School, double-header  
6 p.m.: Oak Hill Academy at

Lee Academy  
6 p.m.: West Lowndes at Hamilton  
6 p.m.: Caledonia at Shannon  
6:30 p.m.: Starkville Christian at Hebron Christian  
7 p.m.: Grenada at Starkville  
7 p.m.: Saltillo at New Hope  
7 p.m.: Nanih Waiya at West Point

### PREP SOFTBALL

5 p.m.: Caledonia at Corinth  
5 p.m.: Hamilton at West Lowndes  
6:30 p.m.: Tupelo at Starkville  
6:30 p.m.: Vardaman at New Hope  
6:30 p.m.: Saltillo at West Point

### PREP TENNIS

3 p.m.: Starkville Academy at Winston Academy

3 p.m.: Oak Hill Academy at Lee Academy

### PREP TRACK AND FIELD

TBA: Caledonia, MSMS, New Hope at Tupelo Invitational, Tupelo

### PREP GOLF

9 a.m.: Starkville girls at Northwest Rankin, Bay Pointe  
9 a.m.: New Hope at River Birch, Amory

## ON THE AIR

### Today

#### AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

4:20 a.m.: FS2 — AFL: Collingwood at Brisbane

#### COLLEGE BASEBALL

7 p.m.: ACCN — Clemson at Florida St.  
7 p.m.: ESPN — Florida at Tennessee  
7 p.m.: SECN — Texas A&M at Auburn  
9 p.m.: PAC-12N — Stanford at California  
10 p.m.: ESPN — San Diego at Gonzaga

#### COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S)

4 p.m.: ESPN2 — Frozen Four Tournament: Boston U. vs. Minnesota, Semifinal, Tampa, Fla.  
7:30 p.m.: ESPN2 — Frozen Four Tournament: Michigan vs. Quinnipiac, Semifinal, Tampa,

Fla.

#### COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)

6 p.m.: BTN — Northwestern at Rutgers

#### COLLEGE SOFTBALL

5 p.m.: ACCN — Florida St. at Clemson  
5 p.m.: SECN — Missouri at LSU  
5:30 p.m.: PAC-12N — Arizona St. at Utah  
7 p.m.: PAC-12N — Oregon St. at UCLA

#### GOLF

2 p.m.: ESPN — PGA Tour: The Masters, First Round, Augusta National Golf Course, Augusta, Ga.  
7 p.m.: ESPN — PGA Tour: The Masters, First Round, Augusta National Golf Course, Augusta, Ga. (Taped)

#### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS)

5 p.m.: ESPNU — State Champions Invitational: Curtis (Wash.) vs. Roselle Catholic (N.J.), Opening Round, Washington

#### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (GIRLS)

3 p.m.: ESPNU — State Champions Invitational: Desert Vista (Ariz.) vs. Morris Catholic (N.J.), Opening Round, Washington

#### HORSE RACING

12 p.m.: FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

#### MLB

12 p.m.: MLB — Regional Coverage: Miami at NY Mets OR Boston at Detroit  
3 p.m.: MLB — Regional Coverage: Washington at Colorado OR Cincinnati at Philadelphia

(3 p.m.)  
6 p.m.: MLBN — San Diego at Atlanta  
9:30 p.m.: MLBN — LA Dodgers at Arizona (Joined in Progress)

#### NBA

6:30 p.m.: TNT — Miami at Philadelphia  
9 p.m.: TNT — Denver at Phoenix

#### NBA G-LEAGUE

7:30 p.m.: ESPNEWS — NBA G-League Final: Delaware at Rio Grande Valley, Game 2

#### SOCCER (MEN'S)

6:45 p.m.: FS2 — CONMEBOL U-17 Championship Group Stage: Peru vs. Argentina, Group B, Guayaquil, Ecuador

#### TENNIS

10 a.m.: TENNIS — Charleston-WTA Early Rounds

# Golf

Continued from Page 1B

Mossy Oak.

A strategy to go easier on the front nine and then play aggressive to finish things out worked out well for the Caledonia alum Logan, who finished tied for third on the individual leaderboard at the Collegiate.

His performance this week follows up what he did from March 17-19 at the Schenkel Invitational in Statesboro, Georgia, finishing second individually with a 54-hole score of 7-under.

"I had a sit-down meeting with my coach at the end of last season and he told me 'Hey, you're a really good player,'" Logan said. "You need to work on yourself and your attitude, not being so negative and hard on yourself." It was learning that golf is an imperfect game and you're never going to have your best stuff. When you do, it's not going to last very long. Learning how to handle when adversity hits and roll with the punches."

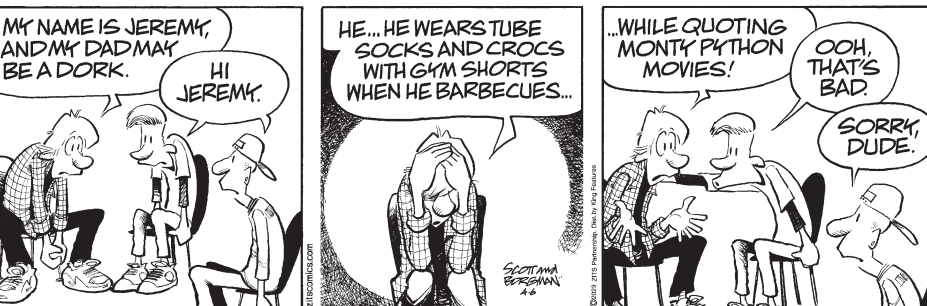
Logan has developed into one of the best golfers on the Bulldogs, a deep roster of talent that showed what Mississippi State can bring to the table and what it's brought all season.

The postseason is right around the corner, and after three-straight top-3 finishes in their last three tournaments, the Bulldogs are peaking at the right time.

"We have a lot of experience," Logan said. "We have a lot of guys that wouldn't be here because of the COVID year. This is by far our best chance."

# Comics & Puzzles

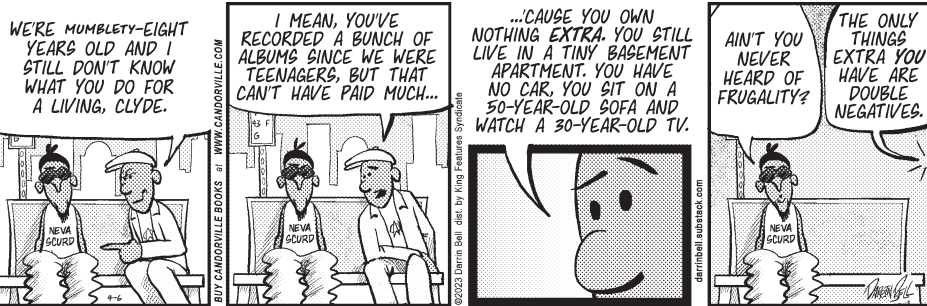
## ZITS



## GARFIELD



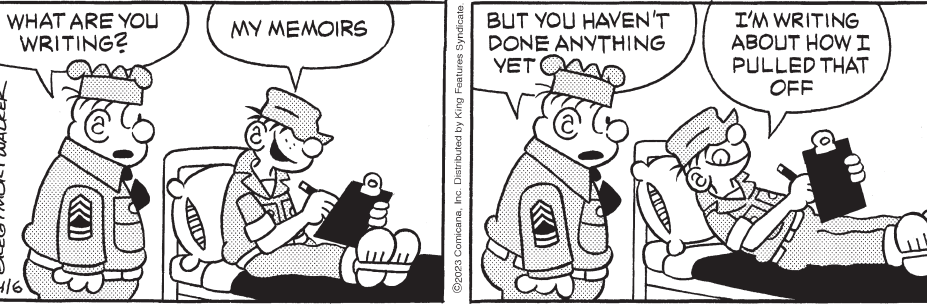
## CANDORVILLE



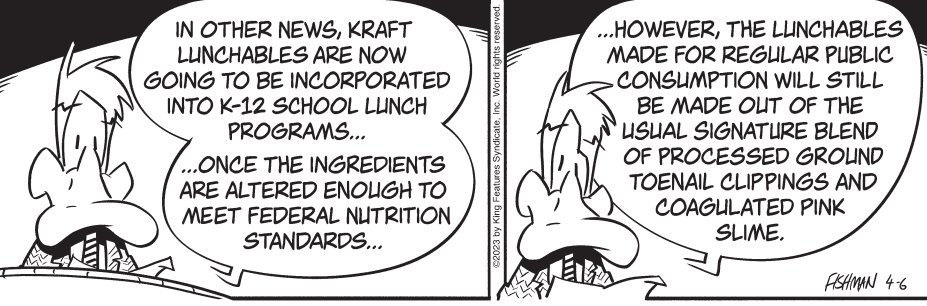
## PICKLES



## BEETLE BAILEY



## MALLARD FILLMORE



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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GTIEH  
CIPCIN  
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

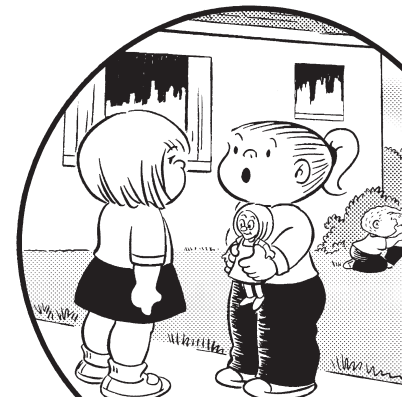
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I'd be happy to break even.

I'll get a thousand dollars for my buck, I'd be happier.

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## FAMILY CIRCUS



## Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am married, but my wife and I are unhappy and have been for years. We grew apart after 17 years. We tried counseling multiple times; it only reinforces the decision to divorce. I have had two affairs. One lasted six months; the other on and off for the past nine months.

The latter lady, "Gayle," and I have an amazing connection in our lifestyles and beliefs. We even have the same birthday. It's undeniable. We also have chemistry like no other. The problem is, she doesn't think we will work. We take breaks, which only lead her to want to see me weeks later.

I have professed my love for her and, while she hasn't said it back, everything points to it. When we are intimate, she cries and tells me how much I mean to her. Gayle is strong-willed, independent and lives her life on her terms. When she makes a decision, it's final. But not with me — she keeps coming back. I have written



Dear Abby

her numerous letters declaring my love for her. I get lost in her eyes. I don't want to lose her. Any advice? — DESPERATE IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR DESPERATE: Granted, you and Gayle may have amazing chemistry and other things in common, including birthdays. However, relationships are supposed to be mutual. As you have described it, this one is entirely on Gayle's terms, and she hasn't told you she loves you. Could it be because you are still married?

You have important issues to straighten out before you can have an open relationship with Gayle. One of them is whether you are ready to end your unhappy marriage. Once you are a free man, Gayle may be more forthcoming and available. If not, your romance wasn't meant to be anything more than an exciting interlude. Before pinning your hopes on Gayle, it's imperative to take control of your own life.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 12 years. Both of us were widowed. My husband has a cemetery plot next to his first wife. In a nearby city, I have a cemetery plot next to my first husband, which includes a combined headstone with my name already engraved. Our plan was to leave it to our children to make the arrangements when the time comes, but we realize it may not be fair to them.

We both believe funerals are for the living and not for the dead, but I don't think it's fair to ignore my new husband's last name in my final resting place. Neither do I want to negate my relationship of 23 years with my first husband. What would be the proper way to resolve this so none of our children feel disrespected in relation to their parents? We all have close relationships with each other. — PERPLEXED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR PERPLEXED: The first thing to do is discuss this dilemma with your children and explain your wishes. Then contact the cemetery and inquire about adding your married name to the existing headstone or purchasing a new headstone for your eventual final resting place. It's certainly worth asking.

## Horoscopes

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 6).** You'll spend a good amount of time and creativity making your environment streamlined, functional and cool. Your brilliant ideas about how to redesign the systems and structures will take time to execute, but you'll see amazing differences season to season and eventually wind up in a whole new world of your own making. More highlights: You'll assemble an expert team and take on several projects together. You'll express yourself with eloquence before a large group. You'll have comfortable love in abundance.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** While it's fun to hear the very thing you wanted to, getting the exact feedback you desire is a rare occurrence. Provide it for yourself. You're the one most

qualified. You don't need approval when you already approve of yourself.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Don't be concerned with what the other person is trying to say. Everything said is bound to other contexts and therefore incomplete. To listen well is to listen without jumping to fill in the blanks.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You may look confident to an outsider, but you're inwardly wondering if you're in over your head. It's OK if you are. This is more of a swimming pool than an ocean. Hold on to the side until you get your bearings.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You'll get an opportunity with a caveat that could make or break the deal for you. What do you really want? If you're willing to lose

all, you'll probably walk away with exactly what you wanted in the first place.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Dig to the root of an issue. It will be different from what you assume it to be. Feel your way there. When it doesn't make sense, let it stay as nonsense. This one doesn't belong in the intellectual realm.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll walk a fine line between being direct and being harsh and manage to deliver a pointed message with a soft touch — impressive! This is a skill you'll be admired and possibly employed for.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Some say friendship with yourself is needed before you can be friends with anyone else, but it's hard to know how to befriend yourself without a model. Whether you need it or not, you'll have such a person today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Relax while you can. Now you're floating down a quiet stream, but you don't know what kind of rapids await just beyond the river's bend. Soon it will be time to brace yourself for the excitement.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The lines of territory and responsibility are like boundaries on a map. It's easier to agree on where they are in theory. Things are a little different on the ground. Stay very cool, calm and collected and all will work out.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your talent for organizing will extend to projects, items and people. You'll sort and categorize. This puts everyone at ease. People know where things are and what they're expected to do. You lead like a pro.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Your priorities have changed, and you'll adjust your thinking to accommodate a new hierarchy. With goal-setting, scale makes all the difference. Your aim is big enough to excite you and motivate you, but not so big as to be unattainable.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Some memories come back sweetly, others come cringingly back and then there are the ones that never come back at all. You can make sure today's events make the round trip by adding something strange, bold and novel.

## Daily Bridge Club

### Color-blind play

By FRANK STEWART  
Tribune Content Agency

An optimist sees green lights, a pessimist sees red lights. A wise player is color-blind; he focuses on his goal and tries to anticipate trouble.

In today's deal, both Souths in a team match played at five diamonds after both Wests tossed in a preemptive jump-overcall. West led the king of hearts.

One South took the ace and optimistically let the queen of trumps ride. East won and led his last heart, and West won and led a third heart. Declarer ruffed with dummy's ace of trumps to avoid an overtruff, but East's 10-8 were worth a trick. Down one.

**ANSWER:** You have a mandatory opening bid. I believe a slight majority of experts would open one diamond with this pattern. I prefer to open one club, so as to make a fit in either minor suit easier to locate. I would certainly open one club here when the club suit is so much stronger. Lead-direction if the opponents buy the contract is a factor.

South dealer  
N-S vulnerable

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠	K 5 2	♥	A 10 9 8 4
♦	8 4	♣	9 5
♠	A 9 5 4	♥	K 10 8
♦	A Q J 7	♣	K 10 5 3

**REPLAY**

In the replay, South was pessimistic about winning a trump finesse; he led low to the ace and returned a trump. East rose with the king and returned a heart, and when West won and led a third heart, East scored his ten of trumps. Down one again.

Both Souths were unwise: They should let West win the first trick. After they win the next heart, they can attack the trumps in any reasonable way and lose one trump and one heart.

**DAILY QUESTION**

You hold: ♠ K 5 2 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A 9 5 4 ♣ A Q J 7. You are the dealer. What is your opening call?

<b>WEST</b>				<b>EAST</b>			
♠	7 3	♥	K Q J 10 7 3	♠	10 9 8 4	♥	9 5
♦	6	♣	9 8 4 2	♦	K 10 8	♣	K 10 5 3

<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠	A Q J 6	♥	A 6 2
♦	Q J 7 3 2	♣	6

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♥ K

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## WORD WARP

4/6/23 by Bill Biggar and Tom Gauer

Find the word held in common by the three words in each puzzle. The three solution words will form a fourth puzzle. The numbers indicate each answer's length, and the + tells you its position.

Example: The solution to +FLOWER, WALLS+ and BERLIN+ is WALL.

+credit  
+chair  
+Rider

+Men  
+Hatter  
+dash

+Girl  
+Farm  
+bone

FINAL ANSWER

## WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

H20TNIKJAM

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- 12x20.....\$140
- 12x40 .....\$300

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- 10x30.....\$275

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# Business

GOINGS ON WITH GRANT

## New children's playhouse business coming to Starkville

PLUS: Sol Y Luna opening in May

There's nothing like having a new place to take the kids for some good old fashioned family fun.

With that in mind, Starkville resident Chrissy Baker will open KidzVille Indoor Play Cafe at 105 C. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive in late May.

Baker told me she began working on the idea of opening a family entertainment and kids' play business because she saw a need for kids to have a place to learn and have fun.

"We wanted to do whatever we could to get to the children in our community," Baker said. "We wanted to get the city's children and the surrounding Golden Triangle area back to playing in a safe and fun environment."

To do this, Baker devised the ideal playhouse model in 2020 but held off until September 2022 to start renovating the 3,000-square-foot building. The rooms inside the playhouse include banks, grocery stores and office spaces for kids to learn how the adult world looks while still having fun with toys and activities.

Baker said she and her team are currently putting the finishing touches on the business and will start setting up play rooms soon for the children to have a fun and educational experience.

"If people know me, they know that I love children and that I have a deep passion for children and love seeing

them grow," she said. "If you can give kids all the resources they need to learn, then they will grow."

Next up, the Guadalajara Bar and Grill, located in the former Pizza Hut at 211 Hwy. 12, opened Monday after delays in acquiring the right kitchen equipment, manager Martin Murillo said.

"We've been waiting for this for almost five months," Murillo said. "We are kind of nervous, but we're happy with it. We know what we can do and we are excited to be in Starkville."

The restaurant began renovating the space in September 2022 and finished the project last month before waiting on its food and beverage permits. I, for one, cannot wait to try the chicken tacos.

But if you aren't hungry enough to try out Guadalajara just yet, you may want to stop by this new Starkville business to get your hunger pangs, provided you have the right credentials.

Greenwise Cannabis Company opened its new medical cannabis dispensary location Wednesday at 823 Hwy. 12 W. next to Zaxby's.

Operations Direc-



Grant McLaughlin

tor Randy Kirby said the company first leased the building in October after receiving its dispensary license from the Mississippi Department of Revenue earlier that summer.

Work to prepare the building finished by Monday just in time for an open house that day.

Business hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Just don't forget to bring your medical card with you at the door.

Moving to Columbus, Sol Y Luna, a new Mexican restaurant in the former Logan's Roadhouse building at 589 18th Ave. N. is looking for hired hands before officially opening.

Owner Felipe Hernandez said the buildout for the new restaurant wrapped up in March, and the business will begin hiring front-of-house workers such as bartenders, bussers and servers next week. He hopes to open by May 5.

You know, the temperature has been climbing the last few weeks, and as we wave goodbye to winter and the cool temperatures she took with her, we may all begin to look toward the

long-awaited opening of Dairy Queen, located at 1902 Hwy. 45 N.

Owner Vikaskumar Patel said the restaurant is now slated to open by April 22 after experiencing delays in procuring kitchen equipment for the business. He is looking for people to work, and has already hired 25 employees, but a few more never hurt.

Well, folks, it's high time I hit the road on this edition of Goings on with Grant. Make sure to check back in next week for more goings on in business.

Dispatch reporter Grant McLaughlin writes about business openings and closings, as well as other unique business news. Send business tips to biz@cdispatch.com.

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Source: gasbuddy.com

COLUMBUS	
2.91	MARATHON 3900 US-45 N
2.95	KROGER 1829 US-45 N
2.95	SPRINT 712 5th St. N
STARKVILLE	
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## GM passes Ford to take No. 2 spot in EV sales behind Tesla

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — General Motors rode strong first-quarter sales of the Chevrolet Bolt to bump crosstown rival Ford out of second place in the U.S. electric vehicle sales race.

But GM's EV sales of 20,670 were still far below those of industry leader Tesla, which delivered more than 161,000 vehicles in the U.S. from January to March, according to estimates from MotorIntelligence.com.

Ford sold only 10,866 EVs during the quarter, but the company said that's largely because it had to stop making the top-selling Mustang Mach-E electric SUV while it retooled a factory in Mexico to increase production. Spokesman Said Deep said the company didn't build Mach-Es for seven weeks during the quarter, cutting into sales.

Also, Ford was forced to stop making the F-150 Lightning electric pickup in February after a battery caught fire during a pre-delivery quality check. The problem was fixed and production resumed March 13.

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# Classifieds

## LEGALS

CALL US: 662-328-2424

### Legal Notices

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF LOWNDES  
Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Education of Lowndes County, Mississippi until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023, at the office of the County Superintendent of Education located at the Lowndes County Central Office in the Columbus, Mississippi for the following bid items:

#### Bank Depository

Interested bidders may secure specifications from Sayonia Garvin, School Business Administrator, Lowndes County School District, 1053 Hwy 45 North, Columbus, MS 39701 or call (662) 244-5016.

PUBLISH: 3/30 & 4/6/2023

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### FOREST PRODUCTS FOR SALE

#### ON COUNTY SCHOOL LANDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Lowndes County School District, at 1053 Highway 45 South, Columbus, Mississippi, up to and not later than 10:00 a.m., on April 13, 2023, for the right to purchase all timber marked or designated for cutting in Section 16, Township 18 South, Range 17 West, Lowndes County, Mississippi.

Before bids are submitted, full information concerning the material for sale, conditions of sale and submission of bids should be obtained from the Area Forester, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Starkville, Mississippi.

The right to reject any and all bids is reserved.

PUBLISH: 3/21, 3/22, 3/23, 3/24, 3/25, 3/28, 3/29, 3/30, 3/31, 4/1, 4/4, 4/5, 4/6, 4/7, 4/8 & 4/11/2023

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### Office Spaces For Rent

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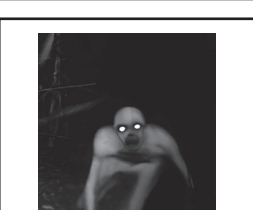
### Autos For Sale

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## COMMUNITY

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#### Five Questions:

- 1 The Oatmeal
- 2 Last Man Standing
- 3 Linkin Park
- 4 Rampage
- 5 Jason Momoa

# BUY-START-DISCOVER in the classifieds



## ON THE WEB

Visit www.cdispatch.com for a printable copy of these puzzles.

#### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 4-6

#### Sudoku

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty spaces so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level increases from Monday to Sunday.

#### Yesterday's answer

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 4-5

#### CRYPTOQUOTE

GV DRA IVBL VZ KVRB HLXBL  
UQCZ VZ KVRB HVRSU, CZH  
UQL HBLCI YXMM UCPL DCBL

VG XUALMG. — ICBP UYCXZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I LOVE PASSOVER BECAUSE FOR ME IT IS A CRY AGAINST INDIFFERENCE. A CRY FOR COMPASSION. — ELIE WIESEL

#### ACROSS

- 1 Bunches
- 5 Small herring
- 10 Stubbs of the Four Tops
- 11 Tough situation
- 12 Perfect place
- 13 Made up
- 14 Curbside noisemaker
- 16 Arctic regions
- 20 Gentle touch
- 23 Pitching stat
- 24 Follows orders
- 25 Intense beam
- 27 CEO's deg.
- 28 Like some lines
- 29 Spot for a shot
- 32 Base for shingles
- 36 Mississippi port
- 39 Zilch
- 40 Loves to pieces
- 41 Shade
- 42 Recesses
- 43 Woeful cry
- DOWN
- 1 Guinness of film
- 2 Pollux's mother

G	R	A	M				M	O	M	A					
R	A	V	E	R			C	A	N	A	L				
A	D	E	L	E			A	S	T	R	O				
S	I	R					P	A	S	S	I	O	N		
P	A	S	S	E	R	S		M	O	E					
							L	E	A	N	S	B	E	N	
											S	T	E	V	E
							A	B	S		N	E	S	T	S
S	P	A					P	A	S	S	A	I	C		
P	A	S	S	E	L	S		M	E	R					
A	C	H	E	S			E	R	A	S	E				
S	H	E	E	T			L	I	L	T	S				
M	E	S	S								M	E	A	T	

#### Yesterday's answer

- 3 Finished
- 4 "30 Rock" star
- 5 Derision
- 6 First-rate
- 7 Operated
- 8 King Kong, for one
- 9 TV's Danson
- 11 Battle reminders
- 15 Highlands girl
- 17 Take a breather
- 18 Grove growth
- 19 Knotty
- 20 Rooster topper
- 21 "Fernando" group
- 22 Bring up
- 25 Aerobatics feat
- 26 Hawks' home
- 28 Day in Hollywood
- 30 Long-legged bird
- 31 April headache
- 33 Sandbox toy
- 34 Writer Ferber
- 35 "Doggone!"
- 36 Outlaw
- 37 Marital promise
- 38 Old card game

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		

Difficulty: ★★★ 4-6



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