

Friends of Hazel Mohamed Wilson will be saddened to hear of her passing on September 6, 2026.
An obituary is not available at this time, but if you wish, you may leave comments on Mortimer Funeral Home's website at mortimerfh.com

The Belzoni Banner

\$1.00

Serving the Heart of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta



Volume 118 Number 38 One Section 6 Pages, Wednesday, September 16, 2026 Web: www.thebelzonibanner.com E-mail: editor@thebelzonibanner.com

In Memory of September 11, 2001 and Recognition of Humphreys County First Responders



Photo compliments of Humphreys County Cultural Museum

September 11, 2026, Humphreys County Cultural Museum presented “In Memory of September 11, 2001” and “Recognition of Humphreys County First Responders “.

A special Thanks to all who attended this special event.

Mr. Wardell Walton served as program guide. Music was provided by Mrs. Vernita Miller.

Prayer was given by Minister Jose’ Watson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem

performed by Mr. Justance Langston. Mrs. Shirlene gave a warm welcome followed by a beautiful occasion given by Mrs. C. Puddin Howard.

Dr. Cassandra Thomas gave the history of 9-11 which was very fitting for the occasion. There were many students present from Humphreys County High School who were not born during the 9-11 Tragedy. The program proceeded with the Recognition of the Firefighter of the Year, Mr. John Clark and recognizing Sheriff Elma Morgan as being the first African

American Female to become appointed to serve as interim Sheriff in MS and Humphreys County. The Candle Lighting Ceremony was held with First Responders, Mr. and Miss Humphreys County School, and local family members lighting candles in memory of deceased members. A moment of silence was held followed by our guest Speaker, Retired Fire Chief from the City of Jackson. A special “Thank You “ to all our community supporters and friends who came out in great numbers to be a part of this event.

More photos on page 5

Trump Administration Announces \$104 Million to Transform Rural Healthcare

This federal investment will support 167 awards to expand specialty and diagnostic care, improve healthcare facilities and equipment, and bring more services closer to home

The Trump Administration announced today that more than \$104 million in federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funding is being put to work to modernize rural healthcare, expand access to services, and strengthen care delivery for Mississippians. This investment will support 167 grants across rural provider technology, capital and care-gap closure, and telehealth programs.

Funded projects include cybersecurity and electronic health record upgrades, remote patient monitoring, new diagnostic and surgical equipment, expanded maternal and behavioral healthcare, and telehealth programs connecting rural patients with specialty care. “President Trump understands that every American deserves high-quality healthcare, no matter where they live,” said **Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** “We are putting resources directly into rural communities to strengthen the health workforce, modernize infrastructure, expand access, and bring care closer to home. We are giving states the flexibility to build solutions around the people they serve, while demanding accountability

for results. That is how we strengthen rural health, improve the lives of patients and families, and Make America Healthy Again.”

“President Trump made a historic commitment to rural America, and these investments are turning that commitment into better care for patients in communities across Mississippi,” said **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz.** “This is what rural health transformation should look like: federal investment that is putting patients first, driving lasting improvements and expanding healthcare for the hardworking Americans who call these communities home.”

Today’s investment was made possible through the Working Families Tax Cuts Act — passed by Republicans in Congress and unanimously opposed by Democrats — delivering a historic \$50 billion investment to help states transform the way healthcare is delivered in America.

“When we began this work, we set out to do more than simply invest in the healthcare system we already have,” said **Gov. Tate Reeves.** “We set out to transform how rural

Mississippians access care — bringing more services closer to home, strengthening the providers and facilities that rural communities depend on, and using technology and innovation to better connect patients to care across our state. Today, we are beginning to see that vision become reality. I want to thank President Trump for making rural healthcare a priority and for giving governors in states like Mississippi the opportunity to make transformational investments in the communities that need them most. I also want to thank Secretary Kennedy, Administrator Oz, and our partners at HHS and CMS for their leadership and for working with states across America as we put these plans into action.”

“The Rural Health Transformation Program is a generational investment in rural health care,” said **Sen. Roger Wicker.** “It will help Mississippi hospitals modernize systems and improve care across our state.”

“Access to quality healthcare in America shouldn’t depend on where you live,” said **Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith.** “This \$104 million in Rural Health Transformation funding is an investment in the future of rural

Fellowship of Christian Athletes officers named at HA



healthcare in Mississippi, helping our hospitals and clinics modernize their technology, expand telehealth, and bring more specialty care closer to home. I welcome this investment and will continue working to ensure rural communities have access to the resources and care they need to thrive.”

“I am proud to have worked with President Trump and my Republican colleagues to deliver the single largest investment to rural health care in American history,” said **Rep. Michael Guest.** “With our state receiving over \$205 million, Mississippi is set to implement new, innovative solutions that address our growing rural health demands. Mississippi recognizes the importance of rural health care and the need to address our nation’s rural health outcomes. I will continue to prioritize rural health and solutions that will innovate health care in Mississippi.”

“Access to quality health care shouldn’t depend on your ZIP code,” said **Rep. Mike Ezell.** “This more than \$104 million investment will help rural communities across Mississippi modernize their health care facilities, expand access to telehealth and specialty services, and give providers the tools they need to better serve their patients. I’m proud to see these resources coming home to Mississippi and helping ensure families can receive high-quality care closer to home.”

Continued on page 5

THE BELZONI BANNER
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
115 E Jackson St. - Belzoni, MS 39038
Phone (662) 247-3373

E-MAIL: editor@thebelzonibanner.com
JULIAN TONEY III - PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
(USPS050000)

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT BELZONI, MISSISSIPPI
POSTMASTER:

Send change of address to:
THE BELZONI BANNER
P.O. Box 610
Belzoni, MS 39038-0610

Regular advertising rates quoted on application.
ALL CLASSIFIED ADS WILL BE CHARGED AT 25¢ PER WORD (\$10 MINIMUM) AND MUST BE PAID FOR UPON INSERTION.
SUBSCRIPTIONS - IN ADVANCE:
Zip codes: 39038, 39097, 39115, 39166 & 38754, \$30.00 per year; All others \$35.00 per year. Add \$5.00 for online access.

NOTICE OF

INTENTION TO DIVERT OR WITHDRAW FOR BENEFICIAL USE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice is hereby given that on the 21st day of July, 2026, COTU-HOTD LLC, 3327 South Highway 65 and 82 South, Suite A, Lake Village, AR 71653 has filed application(s) for permit(s) to divert or withdraw the public water of the State of Mississippi for beneficial use, from Mississippi River Alluvial Aquifer, in the county of Humphreys for Wildlife Management purposes, subject to existing rights, the following amount(s) of water at the indicated location(s):
Application No.: GW-09144
Permitted Acreage: 80 Acres
Location: NE¼ of the NE¼ of Sec 32, T16N, R03 W

Any person, firm, association or corporation, deeming that the granting of the above application(s) will be truly detrimental to their rights to utilize the waters of said source, may protest in writing to the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi, c/o Thomas Tynes, P. O. Box 2309, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, setting forth all reasons why said application(s) should not be approved. If not protested, the permit(s) will be issued on/after ten days following publication date.

If protested, the application(s) will be taken for consideration by the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi in its offices at 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, on, or after November 10, 2026, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard by the Permit Board.

YMD Joint Water Management District
/s/Dillard M. Melton, Jr.

38

NOTICE OF

INTENTION TO DIVERT OR WITHDRAW FOR BENEFICIAL USE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of September, 2026, Cadmium LLC., 280 Richardson Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157 has filed application(s) for permit(s) to divert or withdraw the public water of the State of Mississippi for beneficial use, from Mississippi River Alluvial Aquifer, in the county of Humphreys for Wildlife Management purposes, subject to existing rights, the following amount(s) of water at the indicated location(s):
Application No.: GW-53636
Permitted Acreage: 20 Acres
Location: SW¼ of the NE¼ of Sec 14, T14N, R03 W

Any person, firm, association or corporation, deeming that the granting of the above application(s) will be truly detrimental to their rights to utilize the waters of said source, may protest in writing to the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi, c/o Thomas Tynes, P. O. Box 2309, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, setting forth all reasons why said application(s) should not be approved. If not protested, the permit(s) will be issued on/after ten days following publication date.

If protested, the application(s) will be taken for consideration by the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi in its offices at 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, on, or after October 13, 2026, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard by the Permit Board.

YMD Joint Water Management District
/s/Dillard M. Melton, Jr.

38

NOTICE OF

INTENTION TO DIVERT OR WITHDRAW FOR BENEFICIAL USE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice is hereby given that on the 31st day of August, 2026, Elliot, W Mac, PO Box 2387, Madison, MS 39130 has filed application(s) for permit(s) to divert or withdraw the public water of the State of Mississippi for beneficial use, from Mississippi River Alluvial Aquifer, in the county of Humphreys for Wildlife Management purposes, subject to existing rights, the following amount(s) of water at the indicated location(s):
Application No.: GW-53626
Permitted Acreage: 100 Acres
Location: SE¼ of the SE¼ of Sec 30, T16N, R01 W

Application No.: GW-53627
Permitted Acreage: 100 Acres
Location: SE¼ of the NW¼ of Sec 30, T16N, R01 W

Application No.: GW-53628
Permitted Acreage: 67 Acres
Location: NW¼ of the NE¼ of Sec 5, T15N, R01 W

Application No.: GW-53629
Permitted Acreage: 100 Acres
Location: NE¼ of the NW¼ of Sec 29, T16N, R01 W

Application No.: GW-53630
Permitted Acreage: 100 Acres
Location: NE¼ of the SW¼ of Sec 30, T16N, R01 W

Any person, firm, association or corporation, deeming that the granting of the above application(s) will be truly detrimental to their rights to utilize the waters of said source, may protest in writing to the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi, c/o Thomas Tynes, P. O. Box 2309, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, setting forth all reasons why said application(s) should not be approved. If not protested, the permit(s) will be issued on/after ten days following publication date.

If protested, the application(s) will be taken for consideration by the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi in its offices at 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, on, or after October 13, 2026, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard by the Permit Board.

YMD Joint Water Management District
/s/Dillard M. Melton, Jr.

38

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE BELZONI BANNER ON FACEBOOK

CHARLES F. DAVIS
CONSTRUCTION & REAL ESTATE
224B Hwy. 82 West
Indianola, MS.
(662) 887-3557
Cell: (662) 207-0472
email:
charlesfdavis@bellsouth.net

See all of our listings on
realtor.com

Appraisals & Real Estate Needs
Call or come by the office
to talk to :

Charles F. Davis - Broker
Jackie Fratesi - Broker Associate
662-887-5941

Doug Russell - Sales Associate
662-207-2028

Mary Randal Stevens -
Sales Associate - 662-379-3065

Home Country Slim Randles

Every once in a blue moon, I learn something from the computer. Not often, of course, because they change the rules on how to use it about three times a day, and I never was that fast.

But I love that YouTube channel. Oh man. And I believe, after watching 'way more episodes than my eyes and brain could handle, that I've stumbled on a hidden truth.

How to mess around in dirt and rocks and get filthy, and create something that the headline assured me would be worth millions. And in my spare time!

So I'm sharing this with all of you. First of all, you have to move to southeast Asia ... somewhere. Shrieking monkey calls are optional, but still a good idea.

Then you look in the house or the trash bin or the county dump until you find



a container of some sort. You know, an old flat tire or a Remington noiseless typewriter, or maybe a wastebasket that you want to change into a million bucks.

Then you dig a hole near your jungle home and pour water in it. A lot of water and a lot of that gray stuff that comes in a paper bag with Cambodian writing on it so you can't guess what it says. But boy, does it work! You

— POSTED —

All land & buildings owned by Andrew L. (Andy) Halbrook/COTU-HOTD LLC is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permissions are revoked.

42-41

— POSTED —

All land owned by Ann Long is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permissions are hereby revoked. All violators will be prosecuted.

38-37

— POSTED —

All land owned by John Arthur Mortimer is posted against all forms of trespassing. Violators will be prosecuted.

48-47b

— POSTED —

All land owned by Laura P. Tedford is posted against all forms of trespassing.

43-42

— POSTED —

All land and buildings owned or leased (including the racetrack) by Aycock Farms, Inc., Aycock, LP and Brooks Aycock III is posted against all trespassing. Hunting, fishing, motorcycle riding is prohibited. All violators will be prosecuted.

10-9

— POSTED —

All land owned by Nancy Wood is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permission is hereby revoked. Violators will be prosecuted.

45-44

— POSTED —

All land owned or leased by James W. Sandifer is posted against all forms of trespassing. Violators will be prosecuted.

22u

— POSTED —

POSTED: All land owned and leased by Holly Mound, Inc. and Gardner Family Properties, LLC is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permissions are hereby revoked. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

44-43

— POSTED —

All land owned by An Dabney Faulkner is posted against all forms of trespassing.

All previous permissions are hereby revoked. All violators will be prosecuted.

28-27

— POSTED —

All land and buildings owned or leased by Jimmy Turner and TNT Farms is posted against all forms of trespassing including hunting, fishing, ATV riding, and picking up of sweet potatoes. All previous permissions are hereby revoked. Violators will be prosecuted.

24-23

— POSTED —

All land owned or leased by Cheryl H. Nichols is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permission is hereby revoked. Violators will be prosecuted.

47-46

— POSTED —

All land owned by Jay Toney and Matthew Toney on Sky Lake is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permission is hereby revoked. Violators will be prosecuted.

SMITH HEATING, COOLING & ELECTRIC

Have your Air Conditioning unit serviced now!

Call

RANDY SMITH, Owner
(662) 836-8446



LeafFilter
PROTECTION

Stop cleaning-out your gutters this season



EXPIRES: 11/30/2026

AN ADDITIONAL

25% OFF + 10%
LeafFilter®
Discount For
Seniors + Military

Get a **FREE** full gutter inspection and estimate: **1-866-293-0345**

Promo: 285

*Promotional offer includes 25% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See representative for full warranty details. AZ ROC 344027, AR 036920926, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671520, FL CB056678, ID RCE-51604, IA C127230, LA 559544, MD MHIC164488, MA 213292, MI 262300331, MI 262300330, MI 262300329, MI 262300328, MI 262300318, MI 262300173, MN IR2025-810524, MT 266192, NE 50145-24, NV 0086990, NJ 13VH13285000, NM 408693, ND 47304, OR 218294, PA PA179643, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VT 174.0000871, VA 2705169445, WA LEAF-FLH763PG, WW W056912, WI 537-DCFR

get some window screen that no one wants, line the wastebasket with it, and pour in the concrete.

While it's still setting up, you take a railroad spike and use it to carve million-dollar symbols on the wastebasket. When it dries, you flip it upside down and plant flowers in it.

I can't wait to start. All I really need is a southeast

Asian kid about 12 years old who doesn't mind getting his hands dirty. Why didn't they tell us these things earlier, so it wouldn't take so long to make that million bucks.

Oh well ...

Brought to you by "Whimsy Castle," Slim's most recent novel. Available online at **Amazon.com.**

The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call **855-812-5056** to get your 45-day risk free trial.

- ✓ Revolutionary technology with touchscreen control.
- ✓ Hearing modes for any environment.
- ✓ Multiple models to choose from.
- ✓ Portable charging case.
- ✓ 48-hour battery life.
- ✓ UV cleaning.
- ✓ Background noise cancellation.
- ✓ 45-day risk free trial.

Atom X



Audien Hearing

Olshan
Since 1933
Foundation Solutions

Don't Wait Until Damage Gets Worse!

Payment Plans
Warranty Options
Patented Technology
FREE Evaluations!
(888) 465-1543

Up to \$250 off Foundation Repair

BELZONI



Heart of the Delta

Be in the know!

Text BELZONI to 833-561-6061

Get important city-wide news sent straight to your phone!



(message and data rates apply text STOP to unsubscribe)

Medicare Open Enrollment... What do I do?



Toni,

This is my first Medicare Open Enrollment Period, and a few weeks ago I read your Medicare Open Enrollment article explaining what the fall enrollment time is about. I'm still confused about what I need to do.

I don't know anything about the Open Enrollment process or how I can make a change. How do I find out which options are right for me? I have health problems and I'm concerned--which Medicare health plan and prescription drug plan do I choose? I also want to be prepared before marketing material and telemarketers bombard me. I would really appreciate your help!

Thanks, Phyllis from Denver

Hello Phyllis:

Every fall during Medicare's Open Enrollment Period (OEP) beginning Oct. 15 ending Dec. 7, the Toni Says Medicare team is asked for help in finding the correct option to enroll in during this time. Let me discuss what you can do, Phyllis, during Medicare's OEP.

Which Medicare option is right for those making changes during OEP depends on their health, prescriptions and whether they want to change their medical providers or facilities. They may be someone who has a history of serious health issues treated with expensive brand name prescription drugs or someone who goes to the doctor once a year for a physical and takes inexpensive generics.

Phyllis, I would say to take your time and research your options. Below are steps the Toni Says team uses when helping clients during Medicare's OEP.

Step #1: Decide if you want Original Medicare (Parts A & B) or Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan" (MAPD) Part C.

a) Ask your doctor's office which plan is recommended. Most doctors accept Original Medicare, but not all accept Medicare Advantage plans. If you have a doctor/ medical facility that is in a Medicare Advantage plan's provider directory, don't forget to call that specific doctor's office/facility to verify that the provider/facility is still accepting that specific Medicare Advantage plan in the upcoming calendar year.

b) The main difference between Original Medicare and Medicare

Advantage plans is that Original Medicare works only with Medicare and the Medicare Supplement selected pays the deductibles or coinsurances. Medicare Advantage plans (MAPD) also called Part C, are administered by private insurance companies that are approved by Medicare and are primarily HMO and PPO plans.

c) When choosing a Medicare Advantage plan, you must use that specific insurance company's card, not your Medicare card, to pay claims. With Original Medicare and a Medicare Supplement, you will use your Medicare (red, white, and blue) card to pay claims with the Medicare Supplement paying the Medicare out-of-pocket.

Step #2: Decide if you need to enroll in or change your current Medicare Part D plan during Medicare's OEP.

a) If you want Medicare Prescription Drug coverage to go along with Original Medicare, then you must enroll in a stand-alone Medicare Part D plan, and there may be a monthly premium.

b) If you choose a Medicare Advantage plan, make sure that the plan has Medicare Part D Prescription Drug coverage included to keep you from receiving a Medicare Part D penalty for not enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

c) Verify that your brand-name/generic drugs are in the selected Medicare Advantage plan or stand-alone Part D plan's formulary.

Step #3: Remember, Medicare's Open Enrollment has a deadline, and you have from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 to change your Medicare Advantage (MAPD) plan or stand-alone Medicare Part D plan and the change will begin Jan. 1.

a) If you miss the Dec. 7 deadline, you will have to wait until the next year's Medicare OEP.

b) Medicare's OEP is only for enrolling or changing MAPD or Medicare Part D plans. (One can change Medicare supplement, long term care, or dental plans any time of year.)

Phyllis, it is very important during Medicare's OEP that you take your time to explore your Medicare options. Call the Toni Says Medicare hotline at (832) 519-8664 or email info@tonisays.com for assistance with Medicare Open Enrollment questions or any concerns you may have. Toni's "Medicare First Steps," available at www.tonisays.com details various situations during Medicare's Open Enrollment Period.

Toni King is an author and columnist on Medicare, Social Security, and long-term care issues. She has spent nearly 20 years as a top sales leader in the field. If you have a Medicare question, email info@tonisays.com or call 832-519-8664.

Leonard Earl Alford, Jr.

Leonard Earl Alford, Jr., 73, of Doddsville, passed away Monday, September 7, 2026, at South Sunflower County Hospital in Indianola.

Earl was born October 17, 1952, in Indianola, to Leonard Earl Alford and Ruth Worsham Alford. He always put others first, a truth that held steady until his last days. For over 25 years, he poured his hard work into his business as a residential painter, transforming homes with the same care he gave to his family. He also proudly served his country, retiring after 22 years of dedicated service in the Army National Guard.

Outside of work, he loved the simple pleasures of life: hunting, fishing, cooking, and being the biggest fan in the stands at his grandkids' sporting events. He was known as Earl, but to his grandkids he was the best Papa anyone could ask for. He was quick-witted, always ready with a sharp joke, a good scare, or a perfectly timed prank to bring laughter to the room.

Above all, he was a protector and a provider with a deeply generous heart, which shined through in his constant, quiet support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He kept everyone safe, fed, and loved before ever thinking of himself. His legacy of selflessness and joy will live on in the hearts of everyone he touched.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife of 49 years, Kathryn Fike Alford; and his sister, Rita Alford Burchfield.

He is survived by his children, Stephanie Alford Hill (Wayne) of Isola and Stephen Alford (Jessica) of Doddsville; six grandchildren, Guice Hill (Gracie), Alford Hill (Olivia Grace), Tyler Alford, Kaylee Alford, Samantha Vaught, and Sarah Hendon; two great-grandchildren, Carsyn and Harper Kate; two sisters, Cheryl Grissom (Greg) of Pontotoc, and Nene Lutrick (Cliff) of Byram; and his precious Frenchie Addi, aka his little monster.

Visitation was held Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm at Burton Funeral Home in Indianola. The funeral service began at 2:00 pm with Rev. Bob Hill officiating. Burial followed at Indianola Memorial Gardens. Burton Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

The family asks that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in his honor.

THANK YOU

Dear MVSU Athletics Foundation Members, V Club Leaders, and Valley Supporters,

I extend my deepest appreciation to every member of the MVSU Athletics Foundation (MVSU V Club) who played a vital role in making the 2026 Chicago Football Classic an outstanding success. This weekend showcased the very best of Valley Nation--our unity, our commitment, and our unwavering pride in Mississippi Valley State University.

I want to especially recognize Patrick Austin and Dr. Rita Gordon for their exceptional leadership, strategic coordination, and steadfast support throughout the planning and execution of this major event. Their dedication continues to elevate the standard of excellence for our athletic programs and alumni engagement.

To Pat Amos, Jerry Porter, Shirlene Anderson, Della Weddington, Jerry Redmond, and Cynthia Blancher--thank you for your tireless work managing logistics, operations, and the full slate of weekend activities. Your professionalism ensured that every detail was handled with care, and your teamwork reflected the true spirit of service that defines the-V Club.

A special note of gratitude goes to the MVSU Alumni Chapters of the Greater Chicago Area and Suburban Illinois for sponsoring our "Taste of Chicago" dinner and serving as exceptional hosts throughout the weekend. Your hospitality, generosity, and commitment to showcasing Chicago's culture made the experience memorable for our alumni, supporters, and guests.

I am profoundly proud of our MVSU administration, football team, coaching staff, band, cheer squad, student support teams, and every staff member who represented the University with excellence. Your preparation, discipline, and professionalism were evident at every turn, and you carried the Valley banner with pride.

To everyone who contributed--whether through planning, volunteering, hosting, coordinating, or simply showing up in support--thank you. The Chicago Classic was a success because of your collective effort, your belief in our mission, and your dedication to strengthening MVSU Athletics.

Together, we continue to build momentum, expand our reach, and demonstrate what it means to be **Valley Strong**.

With sincere appreciation.

Dr. Alecia Shields-Gadson

Director of Athletics Mississippi Valley State University

—POSTED—

All land owned by Sando Farms is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permissions are hereby revoked. All violators will be prosecuted. 12-11

—POSTED—

All land owned by Mary Jean Pinkerton Harvey and/or Nan Pinkerton Tarlton is posted against all forms of trespassing.

All previous permissions are hereby revoked. All violators will be prosecuted. 22-21

—POSTED—

All land owned, leased and rented by Little J Farms, Little J Hunt & Land, and James W. Sandifer, Jr. is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permissions are hereby revoked. Violators will be prosecuted. James W. Sandifer, Jr. 11-10

—POSTED—

All land owned or leased by Kenny Rodgers is posted against all forms of trespassing. All violators will be prosecuted. Kenny Rodgers 34-33

THE BELZONI BANNER

would love to have you as a subscriber. We mail the paper every Wednesday and our online subscribers receive their's on Tuesday night via email.

If you would like to subscribe, our rates are:
Paper only in zip codes 39038, 39097, 39115, 39166 or 38754, \$30 per year.

Paper only in all other zip codes, \$35 per year.
If you would like online access, please include an additional \$5.

You will receive the paper as well as the online version.
Call us today at (662)247-3373

Long Shots



by Richard Wiman



Long Shots is brought to you by your friends at BankPlus

POCKET ROCKETS

In this day and age of ballistic missiles and drones, fighting wars has certainly changed dramatically, even since The War on Terror. The days of soldiers, sailors and marines listening for incoming artillery or mortars are over. Deadly rounds are coming at three times the speed of sound. Like the old, often repeated expression, "It isn't the one you hear coming that gets you, it's the one you don't hear."

In the deadly heat of the Middle East, even in an air conditioned bunker, our sons and daughters sweat out a ballistic missile attack, hoping it doesn't land directly on them. There are several kinds of heat. There is summer in Mississippi heat, which lingers at times until Thanksgiving, and then there is you didn't study for the test the teacher just handed you. Panic sets in, and you know it isn't gonna be good. The air conditioner is on 69, but you are sweating.

Coming September 19 and running through September 27, duck hunters will have an opportunity at an early season teal hunt. We see two varieties of teal here in Mississippi. The first to migrate south for the winter are blue-winged teal. Later on in November and continuing until the end of the waterfowl season in late January, we see the more prolific green-winged teal. Though their wing patches are of different color, their behavior is very much the same. They are both pocket rockets.

Similar to ballistic missiles, teal fly incredibly fast. Unlike ballistic missiles, they dip and dive with incredible aerial acrobatics. At times, it seems as if they can come screaming in at mach-3, suddenly hit the pause button, turn on a dime, and either dive just above the water or suddenly climb like a sherpa climbing Mt. Everest in record time.

The blue-winged pocket rockets are exciting to hunt. They appear seemingly out of nowhere, and without warning, are in and out of the decoy spread before anyone can mount their shotgun, knock off the safety, and acquire the fast moving, dodge ball champion, small target ducks.

Hunting blue winged teal in September here in Mississippi offers some very unique hunting adventures. First, it is as hot the exhaust from a ballistic missile. Second, no other waterfowl hunting requires allowing the prized retriever to flop in the water to cool off. Other than their green winged cousins, no other waterfowl requires more shotgun shells in hopes of bagging a limit of six/day. That, of course, means teal hunting requires more shells than typically needed for six ducks. In my case, teal hunting in September requires a gun bearer stout enough to tote at least half a case of ammunition. Shooting enough times to get a limit is hot work when the temperature is hovering around 100 degrees.

The only good heat associated with early season teal hunting is the cooking part. Some of the best tasting waterfowl is teal gumbo. The key is to find a chef with connections to the Bayou State and sit back and enjoy some steaming, delicious teal gumbo. Yum!

As this year's teal season approaches, I am restricted from shooting a shotgun of any gauge. Some who know me might think that this makes me hot, but I am quite content to sit this one out. My labrador retriever is available and has promised to let me come along to give directions and keep up with whose teal he has just retrieved. The only other part of early season teal hunting that turns up the heat for me is the presence of venomous snakes! If I see one, I will be sweating big time. For those who will be hunting blue winged teal this coming weekend, give me a call if you need help with a retriever or with getting rid of some teal for gumbo. I'll be hot on the trail finding you when you call.

Believing that hunting pocket rockets in the heat (and mosquitoes) of September is worth every drop of sweat may be a long shot for some of you, but...whatever you do, don't be afraid to go with the long shots. Live life to the fullest every moment and be ready!

Keep that new college student in touch with home with a gift subscription to **The Belzoni Banner**. It's a little piece of home every week in their mailbox.

MORTIMER FUNERAL HOME

BELZONI-GREENVILLE-GRENADA-LEXINGTON

A family you can trust.
662-247-3727



GENERAC

#1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 855-977-8938 to schedule your free quote today!

*Terms & conditions apply

CONSERVATION CORNER

Avoiding Snake Bites



Pit vipers' venom is a complex mix of lethal proteins and enzymes which target specific parts of the circulatory and nervous systems. At the onset of a strike, the venom begins to destroy blood cells, lymphatic vessels, capillaries, and muscle tissue. Burning pain, swelling, and skin discoloration are the most common early symptoms. Other symptoms may include weakness, nausea and vomiting, sweating, chills, muscular twitching, and difficulty in breathing. The bite of a coral snake may produce similar symptoms, but immediate swelling and discoloration are rarely evident, and the pain is mild and short in duration. A non-venomous bite displays no symptoms. The bite may bleed freely and there may be bruising of the immediate tissue around the puncture, but essentially no swelling will occur and the severe pain that accompanies a venomous bite will be absent. No treatment beyond cleaning the bite site is generally required, however if you were unable to identify the snake, leave these decisions up to a physician. Snakes are an important ecological component and serve as natural pest controllers, consuming large numbers of rodents. Although snakes are NOT mean and aggressive, they are accomplished predators with excellent tools for catching and killing prey. For this reason, snakes should be viewed from a distance and never approached. Never try to kill a snake unless it is threatening your life or the life of another person.

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a nonprofit conservation organization founded to conserve, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.

Why Are You Yelling at Me?

By Raymond Barranco



Over the years, my wife has helped me realize that what we say is often less important than how we say it. I'll say something to her and she'll immediately respond, "Why are you yelling at me?" That always makes me pause. My first thought is usually, "I'm not yelling." And technically, I'm usually right. Which, as husbands eventually learn, is not always the most useful category. With a few exceptions, I haven't even raised my voice, much less yelled at her. But when I replay what I just said, I usually begin to understand what she heard. It wasn't volume. It was tone. Maybe I sounded accusatory. Maybe I sounded frustrated. Maybe I sounded impatient, dismissive, or annoyed. Whatever the case, she wasn't responding only to the words I used. She was responding to the way those words arrived. That has taken me longer to learn than I'd like to admit. I used to think communication was mostly about saying the right thing clearly. If the words were accurate, then the message should have been understood. But real life does not work that way. Tone carries meaning too. In fact, sometimes tone carries more meaning than the words themselves. "I'm fine" can mean I'm fine. It can also mean I am absolutely not fine, and you should know that by now. "Do whatever you want" can mean freedom. It can also mean danger. Words matter. But words do not travel alone. They arrive wrapped in tone, facial expression, timing, volume, body language, and whatever history already exists between the people speaking. I think something similar has been happening in our national discourse. Incivility and frustration have gotten so bad that we no longer listen only to what the other person is saying. We focus instead on how they are saying it. And often, what we hear first is not the argument. It is the contempt.

This matters because many of us think we are simply delivering information. Other people may experience us as delivering judgment. We think we are correcting an error. They hear us calling them stupid. We think we are making a point. They hear us dismissing their values. We think we are standing up for truth. They hear disgust, sarcasm, or superiority. There is nothing wrong with disagreeing with someone. There is nothing wrong with correction. Some ideas need to be challenged. Some claims need to be corrected. Some behavior needs to be confronted. But how we do it matters just as much as whether we do it. If the goal is persuasion, tone matters. If the goal is repair, tone matters. If the goal is understanding, tone matters. Of course, if the goal is humiliation, tone matters too. It just produces a different result. This is one of the reasons so many arguments go nowhere. By the time we get to the actual point, the other person is already defending themselves against the tone. They are not thinking, "What evidence is being offered?" They are thinking, "Why am I being talked to this way?" And once that happens, the conversation is no longer about the issue. It is about self-defense. I know this because I have done it. I have focused so much on whether I was technically right that I missed how I was coming across. Some of my colleagues are no doubt nodding along right now. I have assumed that if my point

PEGGY'S PONDERINGS

by Peggy Sims

We are in a season of waiting—waiting for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and especially fall. Meanwhile, the savvy, well-prepared wives have had their homes decorated for weeks with pumpkins and bright foliage. Kudos to them! But I find it hard to get into the spirit when the thermometer climbs into the hundreds every day. Pumpkins, colorful leaves, and berries suggest cool, crisp weather. Where is it? Our farm pastures and roads in and out, remind me of the thirties "dust bowl". The agriculture farms and cattle farms suffered with no rain for a long time. This year our pasture lands are kicking up dust and debris until it's hard to breathe and our ponds are so close to being dried up. I remember one year we had this same situation fac-

ing us and I threatened to do a rain dance and speak a mantra for rain and it rained within the next few days. Can you help me "chant" for rain? We don't have to dress in regalia but just pray for rain. I can hardly wait for cooler temperatures, when I can sit on my welcoming back porch and watch the leaves turn gold and red as they drift onto the withered grass. The geese have returned to the lake behind our house, and I can hear them squawking to one another. My husband dislikes the mess they make, so he placed a large goose decoy near their nesting spot to scare them away. Instead, they seem to love the "big mama goose," gathering around her and squawking as if she were one of their own. When I visited with my folks across the road yesterday her house was so festive with all the fall decorations I got somewhat into the mood to embellish our house. Somewhat but then Christmas is not that far off, so I think I'll just be patient and wait. Let make a PUMPKIN CAKE – 1 box of yellow cake mix, 1 T. Pumpkin pie spice, 1 can of pumpkin puree. Mix all well, mixture will be thick. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 inch pan and bake 350+ for 30 minutes.

was valid, the delivery should not matter. But delivery always matters. The next time someone reacts badly to what we said, it may be worth asking whether they reacted to our words or to the package they arrived in. We may be right. We may even be saying something that needed to be said.

But if our tone communicates contempt, impatience, or disgust, we should not be surprised when the other person hears that first. Sometimes the problem is not that we failed to make our point. Sometimes the problem is that our tone made it impossible for the other person to receive it.

—701—

FAMILY DENTISTRY

Daniel B. Story II, D.M.D.

662-247-3478

701 First Street - Belzoni

Bellipanni Eye Clinic

Dr. Matthew Bellipanni
Dr. Chrissy Manning
Dr. Walker Manning

Open Monday - Friday - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Walk-ins welcome • Comprehensive eye exams
- Glasses & Contact lens fitting
- Diagnosis and treatment of eye disease
- We are providers for most major medical, vision insurances and care credit.

206 Church Street - Belzoni - (662)247-0518
104 Hwy. 49 South - Indianola - (662)887-3120
803 E Fifteenth Street - Yazoo City - (662)746-1623

—POSTED—

All land owned by the Glasscock-Johnson and Watson families on Kilby Lake is posted against all forms of trespassing. Hunting, motorcycle and ATV riding is prohibited. All previous permissions are hereby revoked. All violators will be prosecuted.

21-20

—POSTED—

POSTED: All land owned and leased by Holly Mound, Inc. and Gardner Family Properties, LLC is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permissions are hereby revoked. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

44-43

—POSTED—

All land leased and owned by Steve Grisham is posted against all forms of trespassing. All previous permissions are revoked. Violators will be prosecuted.

45-44

Mcan CLASSIFIED

ADVERTISING NETWORK

STATEWIDE REACH. LOCAL RESULTS.

Place your ad in 80 newspapers statewide. Call 601-981-3060 ext. 1 or email mcan@mspress.org

FOR SALE

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-316-8630 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

STRUGGLING WITH STAIRS? STAY SAFE AT HOME. Acorn Stairlifts® are the perfect solution for arthritis, COPD, and mobility challenges. A+ Rated by the BBB. Special \$250 Savings and a FREE In-Home Consultation. Call 1-877-309-3903 Today!

AUDIEN HEARING. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-866-852-2087

SAFE STEP STAIRLIFTS. Enjoy greater independence and stay in the home you love. Feel safe on every level. \$750 off plus FREE installation. Made in the U.S.A. Call today for a free quote. 1-855-900-6495

REAL ESTATE

WE BUY HOUSES for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-601-273-8545.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-764-2473

OLSHAN FOUNDATION SOLUTIONS. Your trusted foundation repair experts since 1933. Foundation repair. Crawl space recovery. Basement waterproofing. Water management and more. Free evaluation. Limited time up to \$250 off foundation repair. Call Olshan 1-866-264-5115.

REPAIRING or REPLACING APPLIANCES and home systems like heating and cooling can be costly. A home warranty plan can help. Start saving and get 30% off any plan today. Workmanship Guarantee included. Terms apply. Call Cinch Home Services 1-877-967-8980

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-428-0305 today!

SERVICES

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-954-4517

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-628-3143

CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-855-271-5323

WEEK OF SEPT. 13, 2026

YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN 80 NEWSPAPERS STATEWIDE
Call 601-981-3060 ext. 1 or email mcan@mspress.org

More photos of the 911 Remembrance program held on September 11



Pray for and Support your First Responders!

Continued from page 1

Today's announcement is one part of the larger overall funding amount awarded to Mississippi for fiscal year 2026.

Projects supported by this funding include:

- **Modernizing Technology and Strengthening Cybersecurity:** 97 grants totaling approximately \$47.4 million will help rural healthcare providers modernize aging technology, strengthen cybersecurity and data protection, improve interoperability, and adopt tools that reduce administrative burden and support safer, more efficient care.

- **Closing Care Gaps:** 43 grants totaling nearly \$43.3 million will expand access to essential healthcare services in rural communities, including surgical and specialty care, diagnostic imaging, maternal and behavioral health services, and other critical clinical services. Funding will also support facility and equipment improvements needed to maintain reliable access to care.

- **Expanding Telehealth Access:** 27 grants totaling nearly \$13.4 million will expand telehealth and remote patient monitoring capabilities, helping connect rural Mississippians to primary care, behavioral health, specialty care, and chronic disease management services closer to home.

The Trump Administration is delivering on its commitment to strengthen rural America by investing in solutions that modernize technology to promote health and well-being for rural communities. Led by CMS, the RHTP is moving beyond the failed one-size-fits-all approach and giving rural communities the tools to build stronger, more innovative, and more sustainable health systems that deliver better care and better outcomes for the Americans they serve.

For more information about the RHTP, visit: <https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/rural-health>



Leland, 4507 Hwy 82 W, 662-686-2361

Cleveland, 816 N Davis Avenue, 662-843-2741

Greenwood, 1904 Hwy 82 W, 662-453-6525

Yazoo City, 397 Haley Barbour Pkwy, 662-746-4421

Your hometown Kubota dealer of choice

Big Savings for Your Summer Projects



KUBOTA L2502 SERIES

0% APR AVAILABLE

— OR —

\$4,000*

SAVE UP TO ON SELECT L2502 SERIES



KubotaUSA.com

*© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2026. \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 36 months on purchases of new Kubota L2502 equipment dealers in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Example: 36 monthly payments of \$27.78 per \$1,000 financed. Customer instant rebate of \$4,000 on Kubota L2502 available with cash or standard rate financing, including \$0 Down, 5.99% A.P.R. financing for up to 84 months. Customer Instant Rebate is not available with 0% A.P.R. or other promotional financing. Offers expire 09/30/2026. Terms subject to change. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your Dealer or KubotaUSA.com.

