

# Happy Birthday

**January 25** - Beth Lawson Jones, Justin Word, Emma Kate Word, Jackie McCain, Donna Hocutt, Dianne Sumrall, Natalie McLellan, David Cain

**January 26** - Gladys S. Cox, Mingo Brown, Ramona Cowans, Taylor Adcock, Johnson Williamson, Robert F. Hammett, Becky Jones, Caitlen Barron, Tarrica Friend

**January 27** - Elysha Richmond, Billy Hathcock, Addie Stubbs, Kylee Killebrew, Ander Humbles, Tyler Austin, Kathlyn Rainwater, Sherron Beville, Isis Roberson, Kajauna Sumerall, Robert Rogers, J. W. Garrett

**January 28** - Francis McBride, Chetara Hampton, Joe W. Smart, Chris Rucker, Kristan Carroll, Marianna K. Chapman, Billy May

**January 29** - Dink Wilson, Hilliary O'Briant, Lawson Barrett, Michele Holder, Linda Rogers, Linda Moore, Ellis Harris, IV

**January 30** - Carter Huddleston, Ashley Gilmore, Doris Kuhn, Janie Buford, Madison Autry



**ROBYN KILLEBREW**  
Durant native and Pass Christian Principal Robyn Killebrew was honored on Friday, January 19 in front of her faculty, student body and dignitaries including Mississippi Superintendent of Education Carey Wright, for receiving the 2017 Milken Educator Award. She was the only recipient of the award in the state. It not only came with the prestige and recognition, Killebrew also received \$25,000.

Killebrew, daughter of Jackie and Doralynn Killebrew of Durant, was recognized for her accomplishments as the leader of Pass High. In 2016, U.S. News and World Report selected the high school No. 1 in the state for its annual rankings and awarded the school a silver medal based on students' level of college preparedness. The school received an "A" rating within the state.

Killebrew, who has been principal at Pass High for four years, is a third generation educator, following in the footsteps of her grandmother and mom. She will be traveling to Washington, D.C., in March as part of a panel of Milken Award winners.

## DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

Prayers and concern for Harold Payton. He hasn't been well for some time.

Funeral services for Mrs. Jimmie (Johnny) Pace were Monday morning in Pearl. She passed away Friday at a nursing home in Ridgeland after an extended illness. They were Durant residents for several years before moving to the Jackson area for employment.

Saturday, February 3 will be Ladies Night Out at

**January 31** - Karen Eldridge, Lindsey Turner, Carlis Gatson, Jean Hughes, Carol Dickerson, Paxton Miles, Lorraine Travis, Taylor Spell

### WDJ Elementary announces second nine weeks honor rolls

William Dean Jr. Elementary School in Lexington has announced the second nine weeks honor roll and principal's list.

#### Principal's List

Grade 1: Jayla Day, Ja'Kayla Durant, Yoni Farley, Morgan Jennings, Caitlyn Landfair.

Grade 2: Demetri Archie, Titus Deering, Cordarius Dixon, Kameryn Gaston, Talyiah Gordon, Marquesz Horton, Lo'Heim Johnson, Ma'Mya Johnson, Jayden Love, Kendra Miller, Lessie Newman, Saraiah Porter, Tadajah Smart, Rashayla Travis, Clinton Williams III, Malek Williams.

#### A/B Honor Roll

Grade 1: Bryanna Bell, Sammia Brown, Carlos Byrd Jr., Journee Copeland, Mariah Davis, Ashton Friend, Mar'tasia Grays, Milagro Greer, Skytaniya Jefferson, Aeri Johnson, Madisyn Johnson, Ze'Omarion Kirkin, Trenity Meeks, Gianna Montgomery, Larrian Parks, Peyton Phillips, Kellen Thomas, Jamarion Threat, Alasya Thompson, Jada Tyler, Jarvis Wade, Markevion Young.

Grade 2: Schylar Alexander, Cameron Berry, Mya

Kaffay at 5:00 p.m. Plan to attend if possible.

I was glad to hear from Ed and Ruth Sudduth during the week. They are a great Christian couple and loved by many Durant friends. Sure wish they lived closer to "home".

Mrs. Betty Faye Hathcock Edwards spent most of last week in the Kosciusko hospital. All are thankful she is home and feeling better.

A Valentine Banquet at First Baptist Church will be held February 10 at the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10 each. Call and/or come by the church for reservations by February 4. Proceeds will

Blackmon, Willie Davis III, Cle'Shundra Dixon, Jamiyah Ferguson, Vacasso Forrest Jr., Amareyona Gill, Milton Grays Jr., Derrick Greer Jr., Terrence Greer Jr., Neriah Lewis, Kaylen Meeks, Jodarian Redmond, Jamiah Reed, Jarquerious Ross, Amari Saffold, Erika Scott, Timothy Smith, Brikayla Thompson, Sariah Wiley, Kobe Wilson, Keyshawn Wright.

Grade 3: Ryan Anderson, Artasia Barnes, Brennan Dixon, Chandler Gray, Kendra Haymon, Kennedy Jefferson, Tarahji Lindsey, Sundai Moore, Coredale Thomas, Cemahja Turner, Jamiyah Williams, Trenya Woodley, Teron Wright, Marquavious Young.

Grade 4: Caleb Brister, Jamie Davis, Mariah Gordon, Janard Hall, Ciara Jackson, Amari Jefferson, Kaniya Jefferson, Isaiah Jones, Cornisha Johnson, Anaya Levy, Julius Mathis, Demetria Robertson, Devante Simpson, Lorenzo Smoot, Rihanna Steverson, Tamiya Walden, Aquiriana Wade, Austin Wheat

Grade 5: Aaron Davis Jr., Matthew Jefferson, Alana Johnson.

go to Central Hills Baptist Retreat.

Young Cassie May is spending time with her grandparents Joey and Jackie Hill while her parents are spending time on a mission trip in a foreign country. Prayers are they will be home safely in a week or so.

My sister Shirley Ables and I spent Friday night and Saturday in Jackson and visited the grave site of our sister Ann Aldy Corley before returning home. She's been gone more than 20 years.

Baptist Men's Day is Sunday. First Baptist Church will have an all men's choir. Lamar Land will be the

### Tchula native earns Airman of the Year Award

By MVSU Communications

Michael Clark is a man of service. His desire to work in a capacity that allows him to help people is evident in his everyday life as a residence hall director at Mississippi Valley State University, but perhaps even more so in his service to the United States of America in the Air Force Reserves.

On January 7, Clark, a Staff Sergeant of the 307 Security Forces Squadron stationed in Bossier City, Louisiana (Barksdale Air Force Base), received exciting news when U.S. Air Force Col. Robert VanHoy, 307th Bomb Wing Commander, presented him with the Wing's "Airman of the Year" award during a commander's call.

The 32-year-old Tchula native will now represent the wing during the "Airman of the Year" competition at 10th Air Force from March 26-29 in St. Augustine, Florida.

Clark received the distinction from a pool of nine other Airman. From the final three contenders, he was selected as the winner.

"Winning this award means a lot to me. It's a great accolade. I am very happy, and my unit is pleased. A lot of people have offered me congratulations," said Clark.

Clark, who is a 2010 and 2012 MVSU graduate with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in



### Pray the Particulars

A father was teaching his three-year-old daughter the Lord's Prayer. She would repeat the lines after him.

speaker. A men's Bake Off contest will be at the evening service. The ladies of the church will provide refreshments following the service.

We are thankful to have met the goal for the Lottie Moon offering. Thanks to all who gave.

Finally she decided to go solo. She carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from e-mail." Not a bad prayer!

God calls us to pray about everything! We tell God exactly what we want. We pray the particulars. When the wedding ran low on wine, Mary wasn't content to say, (Continued on page 8.)



MICHAEL CLARK

criminal justice respectively, said his decision to join the Air Force was rooted in his desire for change.

"Coming from a small town the only thing I knew was basketball. Sometimes you have to make a turn in life and, after getting a master's degree, I decided to join the military," he said. "Once I joined the military it was something I knew I would enjoy and something that gave me the opportunity to see the world. It also offered me a way to take care of my daughter, Jordan."

During his time at Valley, Clark was a member of the Delta Devils basketball team.

Being a part of the team and being a part of the military drew a lot of similarities.

"Playing basketball, you work together to accomplish a goal. If you are an athlete, the transition to military life is not that much different. Although I didn't know what I was getting into, I had enough courage to face the challenge that was ahead of me," he said.

With six years in the Air Force already, Clark's goal is to remain until he reaches 20 years of service and to retire. Clark will graduate from Valley with his second masters in sports administration in May 2018.

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