

Prosecutor: Mississippi man to plead guilty in nuns' deaths

Associated Press

A Mississippi prosecutor said Tuesday, June 12, that a man charged with killing two nuns in 2016 will plead guilty as part of an agreement that removes the possibility of the death penalty.

District Attorney Akillie Malone-Oliver told The Associated Press she spoke with the victims' families before agreeing that Rodney Earl

Sanders of Kosciusko, Mississippi, could plead guilty to capital murder. She said the agreement calls for him to be sentenced to life without parole.

Malone-Oliver said the decision takes into consideration that the two women who were killed, Sisters Margaret Held and Paula Merrill, opposed the death penalty.

"Life without parole is the

highest punishment, other than death," Malone-Oliver said.

The nuns, both 68, worked as nurse practitioners in one of the poorest parts of the U.S. They were found stabbed to death Aug. 25, 2016, in their home in the small town of Durant after failing to show up for work at a health clinic in nearby Lexington, where they often

treated poor and uninsured patients with diabetes and other chronic conditions. The clinic and the nuns' home are in Holmes County, population 18,000. With 44 percent of its residents living in poverty, Holmes was the seventh-poorest county in America in 2016, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sanders, 46 at the time, was arrested the day after the nuns' bodies were found, and he has remained jailed.

A court administrator confirmed Sanders' hearing is set for today, June 21, before



Sanders is pictured, above left, at the time of his initial court appearance. (Associated Press)

Circuit Judge Jannie Lewis did not immediately return a call Tuesday June 12. A public defender

Lexington teacher shares in \$1 million national donation from Sonic

In the Jackson community: \$6,000 went to 30 teachers, including one teacher specifically in Lexington.

Kathy Davenport, a teacher at Holmes County Central

High School in Lexington was named by Sonic® Drive-In to receive a \$200 gift card

Sonic® Drive-In, a longtime supporter of public school teachers through its Limeades

for Learning® initiatives, celebrated Teacher Appreciation Month throughout the month of May with the third-annual #ThanksTeach social media campaign to recognize, celebrate and reward teachers.

In addition to sharing inspiring stories of real teachers – and encouraging others to

do the same with the hashtag #ThanksTeach – SONIC's \$1 million donation was shared among more than 5 thousand public school teachers across the country, including teachers in the following local cities:

In the Jackson community: \$6,000 went to 30 teachers,

including one teacher specifically in Yazoo City.

SONIC said #ThanksTeach to each teacher with a \$200 gift card to DonorsChoose.

org, SONIC's non-profit partner for Limeades for Learning that inspires teachers to create innovative (Continued on page 4.)

Democrat Howard Sherman and Republican Roger Wicker take county in June 5 Primary Election

By Matthew Breazeale

With 13,023 registered voters in Holmes County, 1,542 cast ballots in the June 5 Primary Election for Democrat and Republican Senate spots, along with Democrat Congressman for the 2nd Congressional District.

All 16 precincts in Holmes County have reported their totals and results were certified on Monday, June 11.

For Senate - Democrat: David Baria, 292 votes/24.23%; Jensen Bohren - 36 votes/2.99%; Jerone Garland - 150 votes/12.45%; Victor G. Maurice Jr. - 41 votes/3.40%; Omeria Scott - 316 votes/26.22%; Howard Sherman - 368 votes/30.54%; and Write-in votes - 2/0.17%.

For 2nd Congressional District: Democrat: Bennie G. Thompson - 1275 votes/99.53%; and Write-in votes - 6/0.47%.

For Senate - Republican: R.Warren Boyanton - 19 votes/10.05%; and Roger F. Wicker - 170 votes/89.95%.

Mississippi state-wide election results were certified on Monday, June 18. They are as follows:

For U.S. Senate - Democrat: David Baria, 26,859 votes; Jensen Bohren, 2,738 votes; Jerone Garland, 4,154 votes; Victor G. Maurice, Jr., 4,233 votes; Omeria Scott, 20,786 votes; and Howard Sherman, 27,106 votes.

For 1st Congressional District: Randy Mack Wadkins, 11,692 votes.

For 2nd Congressional District: Bennie Thompson, 29,729.

For 3rd Congressional District: Kevin Michael Aycox, 7,449; and Michael Ted Evans, 16,420.

For 4th Congressional District: Jeramey Anderson, 14,560.

For U.S. Senate - Republican: Richard Warren Boyan-

ton, 26,466 votes; and Roger F. Wicker, 130,118.

For 1st Congressional District: Trent Kelly, 30,151 votes.

Delta Council held their 83rd Annual Meeting on Friday, June 1, 2018 at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. Following the Business Session of the meeting, the attendees gathered on the Quadrangle to enjoy a Catfish Luncheon during the presentation of the 2018 Achievement Awards.

B. Jones of Tchula was one of eight honorees selected by national trade associations and professionals from his peer group to receive an Achievement Award. Within the Delta, each of the awardees has a significant impact on the image of the Delta and their professions in their different fields of work.

The Pace-Setter Achievement Award was presented to Jones by Senator Roger Wicker, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, and Governor Phil Bryant, joined by EPA Administrator and Keynote Speaker Scott Pruitt, as pictured.

For 3rd Congressional District: Sally Doty, 6,581 votes; Morgan Dunn, 3,820 votes; Michael Guest, 29,121 votes; Whit Hughes, 14,464 votes; Perry Parker, 10,562 votes; and K. 'Bitzi' Tate, 416 votes.

For 4th Congressional District: Steven Palazzo, 28,368 votes; and E. Brian Rose, 12,649 votes.

Tchula farmer awarded Delta Council Pace Setter Achievement Award



The Pace-Setter Achievement Award was presented to Jones (pictured above left) by Senator Roger Wicker (at right), Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (second from left), and Governor Phil Bryant (second from right), joined by EPA Administrator and Keynote Speaker Scott Pruitt (center). (Photo submitted)

"Every year, Delta Council asks the most respected men and women to serve as County-wide Membership Chairmen. The 2018 Pace-

Setter Award was given to B. Jones, a young farm leader and businessman who continues to ensure that Holmes County is an active part of the

work of Delta Council," said George King, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Delta Council, in presenting the award.

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Thursday
Thunderstorms
84/71
Precip. Chance
90%



Friday
Thunderstorms
88/73
Precip. Chance
80%



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
92/73
Precip. Chance
20%



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
93/73
Precip. Chance
20%



Monday
Partly Cloudy
92/72
Precip. Chance
20%



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
93/72
Precip. Chance
20%



Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
92/72
Precip. Chance
20%

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