## **School district hears feedback** during "Community Conversations"



siblings listen in during session 3.



Holmes County parents, children, community members and community/school district volunteers were on hand at S.V. Marshall K-8 school, April 14, for the Holmes County Consolidated School District's (HCCSD) premiere Critical Community Conversations (CCC) and Carnival. The purpose was to discuss the district's educational roadmap for the district (officially known as the It's That Time! Strategic Plan), student discipline and the Summer Flight Program (summer school), as well as provide some good-old community family fun. Activities included general sessions packed with information explanation and discussion around the district's strategic plan, food, fun and games. SVME student Zahara Ahmed (pictured with hoodie), her father Askar Ahmed and Families packed the cafeteria as they received critical need-to-know information. Pic-(Photo submitted) tured above, students pledge to improve behavior. (Photo submitted)

## 230-year-old water mill still making cornmeal and grits

**Associated Press** 

metal roof speak of its age.

Inside, old farm imple-Eddie Sciple's DNA.

"I used to help my grandpa said it's simple — taste. when he was milling.

too. Our family bought it all the nutrients. around 1850 or 1860 —

Of the four other mills that operated on Running Tiger Sciple said it has not operated since the 1950s. Most other grist mills disappeared, too, making the mill about eight miles (13 kilometers) northnorthwest of De Kalb a rarity.

"It's the oldest one we know of that still grinds for the public," Sciple said. "During the fall of the year we get real busy. I've got customers from Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee and everywhere in between."

And the price of his service has never changed.

"We still charge the same we did in 1790, an eighth," Sciple said. "If you bring in a bushel, I get a gallon of it.

"I'll grind that up and bag it and sell it. That's how I get paid."

Most of the milling is done from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays. People come to see the process, tour the mill, and buy cornmeal, flour, grits and fish

fry. At other times customers Tucked away in rural Kem- can get products from a box per County on the bank of located outside and leave Running Tiger Creek sits their money in an honor one of Mississippi's oldest box. Sciple said he also sells businesses. Its weathered to a restaurant, about 15-20 clapboard exterior and rusted stores and he takes orders by phone and ships them.

Sciple charges \$6 for 10 ments, hand tools and other pounds of cornmeal or \$3 for antiques have a coating of 3 pounds. His grits and fish dust from the grain that is fry are \$3 for 2 pounds and milled there. That dust is also flour is \$3 for 3 pounds. But a part of Sciple's Mill owner why would anyone go to the trouble of driving to Kemper "I've been around it since County to buy his products I was born," Sciple, 53, said. or have them shipped? Sciple

"Our grits, nothing is taken "I helped my daddy mill, out," Sciple said. "You've got

"You've got the germ, somewhere around that time which is the soft part. In comframe. I'm the fifth-genera- mercial grits they remove tion owner. We have seven that. It's got a tiny bit of oil generations that have worked in it and that reduces the shelf life, so they remove that."

His cornmeal differs, too.

"It's different in taste and Creek, only one remains and texture," Sciple said. "You don't have to add flour to it to make cornbread.

"It's a smoother texture. It's

ground slow. It's not overheated. All of that makes a difference. Everything but the flour is gluten-free. It's just 100 percent corn."

The mill operates much as it did over 200 years ago. It is powered by creek water that is dammed with gates. The water turns a Leffel turbine that replaced the original wooden turbine when the mill was renovated in 1880. Corn and wheat are ground into grits, cornmeal and flour between two round 42-inchdiameter stones. The bottom stone is stationary and weighs 2,100 pounds. The upper stone rotates and weighs 1,600 pounds.

How much power the turbine produces is unknown. Sciple said his father Edward Sciple, who died in 2015, thought it generated between 250 and 300 horsepower. Sciple said research he's done indicated it creates closer to 50 horsepower. Either way, the 140-year-old technology is powerful.

mill off it, they ran a cotton gin off it and the grist mill," Sciple said.

The sawmill is still there, but the cotton gin is gone. The mill house was destroyed by a tornado in 1973. It was rebuilt using some of the original material and some new, but the second floor that housed the gin was not re-

According to Sciple, mills like his were once common.

"At one time there were five mills on the creek we're on," Sciple said. "Every little community had one.

"Not all of them were water mills. Some were steam pow-

While the grist mill has been in the Sciple family for about 160 years, it dates back

"The original mill was built in 1790, they say," Sciple said. "It was originally built by Dr. Hunnerly.

"He came here from South Carolina and built it. Our family bought it from a lady that ended up with it. Her name was Rose McMannis. I think there was a family or two (that owned the mill) between Hunnerly and McMannis."

Sciple teaches at a nearby "It's enough they ran a saw- community college, so mill-

ing is a part-time job for him. But owning a water mill is a full-time responsibility that he describes as "very confining." He said any trips he plans depend on rainfall. If there is rain in the forecast he has to stay home to adjust the gates in the dam so nothing is damaged. When there are heavy rains at night, adjusting gates comes before sleep.

Even so, he doesn't foresee leaving the life of a miller and his family tradition anytime

"It's not something you can really retire from," Sciple said. "You just keep doing it until you can't anymore."

## \*Central Holmes

(Continued from page 1.) 3rd; John Ward, 4th; Discus John Christopher Riley, 3rd; Riley Patton, 5th; Shot Put - Riley Patton, 3rd; Martavious Hogan, 5th; 4x100 Meter Relay - Sean Harrell, Michael Jones, Jurden Engle, Noah Steen, 2nd; 4x200 Meter Relay - John Ward, Ashton Tate, Michael Jones, Noah Steen, 3rd; 4x400 Meter Relay - Sean Harrell, Jurden Engle, John Ward, Michael Jones, 1st; 4x800 Meter Relay - Sean Harrell, Cayton Edwards, Ellis Harris, Jurden Engle, 1st.



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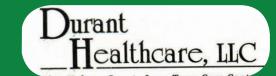
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