



January 21 - Hugh Nichols, Shannon Pritchard, Kristan Carroll, Frankie McCrory, Cindy Gibson, Shelby Turner, Christina Barbee Coon, Carmen Cagle Brown, Andrew Roy

January 22 - Kevin Newton, Angie Blain, Sandra Loflin, Melissa Drennan, Billy Cash, Necie Cain, Marsha Jordan, Lynne Bevell

January 23 - Joey Lawson, Renee Wigley Newton, Clay Rodgers, Bree Pepper Nolan, Helen Berry, Deborah Cohea, Chuck Edwards, Heather Lane, Chris Nelson, Cali Clerk, Richard McCrory

January 24 - Tyrell Thomas, Jess Gilbert, Ric Byrd, Jimmy Drennan, Trey Pierce, Lanie Nix Ables,

Caleb Kellum, Ty Proctor-

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

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

January 27 - Elysha Richmond Lawson, Billy Hathcock, Addie Stubbs, Kylee Killebrew, Ander Humbles, Tyler Austin, Kathlyn Rainwater, Sherron Bevell, Isis Roberson, Kajaunna Sumerall, Robert Rogers, J. W. Garrett, Maria M. Edwards



January 21 - Mike and Julie Ellison

January 25 - Jerry and

Nancy Farmer, Louis and Lucy Alexander, William and Angie Clark

EPA awards \$11 million cooperative agreement for National Environmental Education Training Program

Press Release

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to award approximately \$11 million to the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) for a five-year cooperative agreement to develop and manage the National Environmental Education Training Program.

“Teachers can help students of all ages understand the importance of being good stewards of their environment, educating them about how to care for the air, water, and land,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “The organization selected today will provide support and training to professionals across the United States, giving them the tools to provide insight and instruction about our country’s most important environmental issues.”

The purpose of the program is to develop and deliver environmental education training and long-term support to professionals across the country. The NAAEE training program will conduct the following actions:

- Help train environmental educators;
- Increase distribution of quality materials;
- Improve non-formal education programs;
- Enhance coordination

among environmental education organizations to help reduce duplication and costs;

- Increase the number of environmental educators; and
- Increase public knowledge of the environment.

EPA anticipates providing funding for these projects once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

In 1991, EPA established the Office of Environmental Education to implement programs mandated by the National Environmental Education Act, including the National Environmental Education and Training Program. Since 1992, the program has trained educators by building infrastructure through leadership clinics, supporting the development of state certification programs, developing guidelines for excellence in environmental education, and using technology to expand access to resources for formal and nonformal environmental educators, among other initiatives.

Information about the environmental education program: <https://www.epa.gov/education>

Information about the teacher training program: <https://www.epa.gov/education/national-environmental-education-training-program>

Two Lady Jaguars sign intent to play basketball for Holmes Community College



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs basketball team will soon see two new names on its roster. Holmes County Central High School Lady Jaguars Shanbria Rule (seated left) and Jarie Rule (seated right) have both signed letters of intent to play at the Goodman community college. Rule said on Tuesday, January 12, she plans to major in physical therapy. Rule is the daughter of Tijuanda Hille and David Rule. Brice, the daughter of Kiley Brice, said she plans to study and major in nursing. Both girls are pictured flanked by their team and classmates. Pictured standing (from left): Shakendalah Jones, 11th grade; Brianna Jordan, 11th grade; Kelsi Andrews, 7th grade; Elyshah Huntley, 9th grade; Carleigh Andrews, 11th grade; Dekyra Mitchell, 9th grade; Rayanna Meeks, 10th grade; and Jeremiah Williams, 9th grade, team manager. Not pictured is Lady Jaguars Coach Luana Greer.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

Auditor’s office arrests former Pearl River County Crimestoppers board member

Press Release

On Monday, January 11, State Auditor Shad White announced Special Agents from his office have arrested Michelle McBride, a former board member and officer of the Pearl River County Crimestoppers (PRCCS), after she was indicted for embezzlement. An \$82,416.37 demand letter was issued to McBride when she was arrested.

McBride allegedly used her position as Secretary/Treasurer to embezzle over \$52,000 from PRCCS from January 2014 to April 2019. Investigators believe McBride used the PRCCS debit card for personal rodeo expenses and transferred PRCCS funds to fraudulent non-profit accounts she owned. Pearl River County Sheriff’s deputies assisted in the investigation.

McBride surrendered to Special Agents at the Pearl River County Sheriff’s office. Her bond was set at \$20,000 by the court.

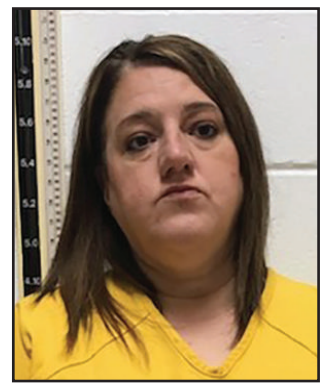
If convicted, McBride faces up to 25 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines. All persons arrested by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The case will be prosecuted by the office of Dis-

trict Attorney Hal Kittrell.

“It is disheartening to see money intended to make our communities safer instead go to someone for their personal benefit, but I am grateful for the work of our investigators and the help of the district attorney’s office in putting a stop to it. We will no longer tolerate this kind of theft in Mississippi.”

No surety bond covers McBride’s employment with the Pearl River County Crimestoppers. Surety bonds are similar to insurance designed to protect taxpayers from corruption. McBride will remain liable for the full amount of the demand in addition to criminal proceedings.

Suspected fraud can be reported to the Auditor’s office online any time by clicking the red button at www.osa.ms.gov or via telephone during normal business hours at 1-(800)-321-1275.



MICHELLE MCBRIDE

DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

All are thankful that Dr. and Mrs. Shrock are feeling better and are back at their jobs seeing sick patients. We are very thankful they are better and pray they can stay well. We all love and appreciate them a lots in this little town.

We are saddened because of the death of John Howard Patton. He moved away after the loss of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Patton several years ago. They were well thought of in this town. We have lost a host of people the last several years including Edwin Sudduth in the last week. He was a great Christian and one of the very best piano and organ musicians ever born. He lived here until several years ago and was loved and appreciated by so many Christians, and some non-Christians. He will not be forgotten, ever, by those who knew him. May God bless all and give comfort to his wife and all friends. I’m glad to sat he was one of the best.

We want to invite all who will and have no church family to come be with the First Baptist Church Family. Rev. Lyn Nations is our pastor. He and his wife are appreciated and loved. Come and worship with us if and when you can and will. We love and are thankful for Rev. and Mrs. Nations.

My daughter Shirley Higginbotham and son Jay of Clinton visited with us Thursday through Saturday. She is very thoughtful and helpful. I’m very thankful for good children.

Mrs. Sid (Jo) Vaughn has been our pianist at church, First Baptist, for several weeks but had none last Sunday. Hope she will be available if needed again soon. They (Jo and Sid) are real talented and Christians. We appreciate them very much.

Continue to remember all those who are sick with the virus. That all will be well again soon. Prayers are for healing for all. We look forward to healing for all.

For all who have been sick with the virus or anything, our prayers are that you will be fully improved and well again real soon.

Derek and Jodi May and family spent time with Joey and Jackie Hill last Saturday. Jamie and family came for Christmas with their parents but because they (Joey and Jackie) were not well, they didn’t get to be with them much because they were sick with the virus. Jodi and family enjoyed them staying with them for several days.

I spent Christmas with daughter Shirley Higginbotham and family in Clinton. Their daughter Sonia Wells and family entertained the family for a good time for Christmas and good food. It was a treat to be together and wonderful food. Thanks to all for a very enjoyable family get together.

May God bless and give healing to all who are sick or sad.