

## Taharga Hart takes on new role as Area Conservationist for the Delta area

### News Release

Jackson, Mississippi – On April 25, 2021, Taharga Hart was selected to serve as the Area Conservationist for the Delta Area in Mississippi, which consists of the following counties: Bolivar, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo.



TAHARGA HART

Hart is currently on detail in Louisiana until May 21. Hart, a native of Lexington, Mississippi, is a 2001 graduate of Alcorn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. His first interactions with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) came as an intern during the summer months while completing his degree at Alcorn State University. From there, the experiences he gained allowed him to truly understand the needs and type of assistance

farmers and ranchers would desire from government programs, as he was ready to make a change.

Hart started his career with the Louisiana State University Ag-Center in St. John the Baptist Parish as the Assistant County Agriculture Agent, and in September of 2007 transitioned to NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician in Attala County. Before taking on the role of Area 4 Conservationist, Hart served as the Resource Conservationist in the same area.

“Hart was an excellent candidate to fill the Area 4 Conservationist position in Mississippi,” said Kurt Readus, Mississippi State Conservationist. “I believe the wealth of knowledge and experience he brings to the table will undoubtedly move our state forward, and I am eager to begin working with him in his new role.”

Hart looks to continue to help farmers and ranchers across the Delta put conservation on the ground.

“I am very excited to take on the new role as Assistant State Conservationist for

whites and poured on top of the last layer of vanilla wafers and browned.

*Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*

## \*Gas Shortage

(Continued from page 1.) to receive an abundant supply of product – increased, even, because of the delay in shipping on the pipeline. Our land terminals are continuing to fill orders. The Plantation Pipeline is increasing supply and the Pascagoula Chevron Refinery is operating without disruption.”

The Plantation Pipeline, an additional pipeline running through the state, is working to accommodate added supply on its pipeline. The Chevron Pascagoula Refinery, one of the largest refining operations in the country located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, is unaffected due to the outage of the Colonial Pipeline. The Chevron Pascagoula Refinery is continuing to supply its customer network along the U.S. East Coast and is managing fuel supply chain disruptions caused by the outage of the

Field Operations in Area 4 to continue to provide assistance to farmers across the Mississippi Delta,” said Hart. “With my experience, I know how important it is to producers that we go the extra mile to provide technical and financial assistance to them, and as a team that is what we will continue to do in this region.”

Colonial Pipeline.

Due to additional labor shortage pressure in the fuel transportation industry, the U.S. Department of Transportation has issued a waiver allowing for longer service hours by motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance in affected states, including Mississippi.

“I recommend Mississippians limit travel as possible, but if traveling for work or pleasure this week to be mindful of their fuel needs. You should call ahead to the chamber of commerce or local tourism office at your destination to inquire about local fuel supplies. Unfortunately, gas prices have been on the rise, and we expect this will further contribute to price increases at the pump. However, we anticipate any local price increases felt by consumers will not be the result of lack of supply, but rather are related to additional shipping costs incurred with picking up product in markets outside of the routine contract area due to the disruption,” said Commissioner Gipson.

Commissioner Gipson concluded, “In summary, Mississippians should travel as necessary and purchase only the fuel they need. ‘Panic buying’ is counterproductive, and there is no need to panic.”

## Skunk at the Revival

All the churches and all denominations are getting ready and preparing for spring revivals. I can remember how



### Peggy's Take

at the church I was a member of for over fifty years, and how we would always have a really good spring cleaning during the week before the revival. As the music minister I would always prepare for our choir to sing specials in anticipation of this week long rejuvenation of our spirits. It was an exciting time, and it brings back so many memories of the little white clapboard church in the country side out close to the Carmack community, the Salem Baptist Church where I was taken from an infant until we moved closer to town.

Spring revivals were sometimes held outside underneath a big tent with hard pews to sit on and of course “natural air” filled the tent. On the weeks, usually two weeks, of revival the last Sunday was our “homecoming” and everybody, especially me loved this day because we always baptized in Zilpher Creek in the morning and had “dinner on the ground” following the baptizing. Our preacher would lead the new convert out to almost waist deep and dip him back into the cool clear water of the spring fed creek as the onlookers shouted Amens and Hallelujahs. Then we all went back to the church lawn to enjoy a most delicious dinner on the ground.

My Mama’s fried chicken was never enough but I was always sure I got my chicken leg. My Aunt Louise made fresh cream corn, other aunts and family friends brought peas, butterbeans, creamed potatoes, crunchy scrunchy cornbread and homemade biscuits. And the desserts, oh my I can still taste them. I believe my favorite then and still is homemade banana pudding.

One Sunday as we had just filled our plates to capac-

ity, I saw something black slither in and go underneath one of the food laden tables.

A friend and I followed the little black invader and to our surprise and amazement, the little four-footed animal was a skunk. We knew if we tried to scare him away, we would have lots of “skunk perfume” to enhance our dinner so we just kept quiet and he picked up a piece of cornbread that had been dropped and hurried off back into the woods.



## Congressman Bennie Thompson announces more than \$400 million for local colleges, universities and students

### News Release

(Bolton, Mississippi) – Congressman Bennie G. Thompson announced more than \$100 million in emergency funding for colleges, universities, and students in Mississippi’s 2nd Congressional District under the American Rescue Plan. The funding will help local institutions cope with the severe financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue serving their students safely. At least half of the funding each institution receives will be distributed in the form of emergency cash assistance grants to students who are facing hunger, homelessness, and other hardship.

The American Rescue Plan provides \$36 billion for nearly 3,500 public and private, nonprofit colleges and universities nationwide.

The colleges and universities in Mississippi’s 2nd District receiving funding under the American Rescue Plan are:

Alcorn State University: \$15,634,269

Belhaven University: \$7,057,174

Coahoma Community College: \$7,423,669

Copiah-Lincoln Community College: \$7,046,632

Delta State University: \$7,532,196

Hinds Community College: \$35,133,504

Holmes Community College: \$13,323,521

Jackson State University: \$23,518,059

Millsaps College: \$2,063,598

Mississippi Delta Community College: \$8,335,569

Mississippi Valley State University: \$8,404,710

Tougaloo College: \$4,053,573

Students should contact their institutions for more information about how they can apply for an emergency grant.

The American Rescue Plan also includes nearly \$3 billion in additional funding – which will be distributed at a later date – for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), other Minority-Serving Institutions, and other under-resourced institutions.

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