

Jackson . . .

(Cont'd. from back page)

West Memphis, Ark. high school senior, was reported missing March 5, 2023. His body was discovered March 8 in a remote area of the Holly Springs National Forest approximately 30 yards off County Road 243 between Coffeeville and Oakland.

Yalobusha County Sheriff Jerimaine Gooch previously told the Herald that deputies began searching the area after West Memphis Police were able to ping Wilson's cellphone in the forest.

"That was our first involvement in this case," Gooch said at the time. "The search was difficult because the general area where the phone pinged is very remote and it was already dark during most of the search."

A U.S. Forest Service employee spotted Wilson's body the following morning.

Investigators reported that Wilson had been shot multiple times and that bullet casings were recovered at the scene. Authorities later indicated the crime did not appear to be

random and that Wilson likely knew at least one of the suspects.

Following what District Attorney Jay Hale described as an exhaustive multi-agency investigation spanning Mississippi and Arkansas, four Coffeeville residents were arrested and charged: Layvonnica Alicia Jackson, Brandon Jackson, Bralin Jackson and Devin Smith. Bond was set at \$1 million each.

The cases against the remaining three defendants are now moving forward on separate tracks.

Bralin Jackson and Brandon Jackson each have plea settings scheduled for March 5 before Judge McClure. If no plea agreement is reached, a jury trial is scheduled for March 16 at the Coffeeville courthouse.

Devin Smith's case has involved multiple mental health proceedings. Court orders reflect that a McNaghten analysis was requested to evaluate his mental condition at the time of the alleged offense and whether he understood the nature of his actions and the difference between right and wrong. A competence-to-stand-trial evaluation was recently submitted to the court under seal.



NOTICE OF WATER RATE INCREASE

Coffeeville Residents:

Due to the increasing cost of maintaining our water infrastructure, a change in water rates for the Town of Coffeeville will take effect on March 1, 2026. This will be reflected in your April bill.

The Board of Alderpersons has delayed taking this action for quite some time. Unlike many municipalities which increase water rates annually, the Town of Coffeeville has not raised rates for water and wastewater in five years.

Unfortunately, the cost to maintain and replace old pipes and pumps, as well as maintaining the treatment pond, have made this a necessary step our town must take to protect our water supply for residents.

In short, if you use less than 1,000 gallons of water each billing cycle, you will see an increase of \$3.50 for water each month. Those customers who use additional water beyond the first 1,000 gallons will now pay \$6.75 per 1,000 gallons (an increase of \$3.50).

As for wastewater, there will be a \$19.50 per month initial sewer charge and a \$6.75 charge per 1,000 gallons of water treated in excess of 1,000 gallons. Both of these amounts reflect an increase of \$3.50.

Any sewer customer outside the town limits of Coffeeville will pay \$20.50 per month for the initial sewer charge and a \$7.50 charge per thousand gallons of water treated in excess of 1,000 gallons. These amounts also reflect an increase of \$3.50.

We look forward to continuing to provide the citizens of Coffeeville with a safe, reliable source of water.

Sincerely,
Mayor and Board of Alderpersons
Coffeeville, Mississippi



YALOBUSHA COUNTY DEBRIS REMOVAL STATEMENT

Yalobusha County has adopted regulations governing the removal of disaster-generated debris. In coordination with our debris management contractor, we have implemented an efficient and systematic collection process, so residents understand what to expect and how to ensure successful removal of eligible debris.

Contractors operate seven (7) days per week, twelve (12) hours per day, and are collecting only storm-generated debris.

TFR Enterprises, Inc. has divided the County into multiple debris collection zones. All zones are being worked simultaneously, with priority given to the most heavily impacted areas to address immediate safety concerns. Within each zone, crews will complete debris removal from an entire subdivision, street, or block before progressing to the next area.

Residents are asked to place eligible storm-generated debris at the edge of the county or state maintained right of way. Your cooperation and patience during this recovery effort are greatly appreciated.

Work will begin on February 5, 2026 and will be performed the next 60 days.

As you prepare to place your debris curbside for collection, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Do not place debris on top of utilities, for example: cable, phone, electrical or storm drain boxes.
- 2) Please do not place debris in front of or around your mailbox.
- 2) Please do not place debris in front of or around your driveway, as emergency vehicles may need to enter the area.
- 4) Please drive with extreme caution in areas with large debris piles.
- 5) Please aid contractors by sweeping excess and loose debris from the street in front of your house for collection.
- 6) Please keep vegetative debris separate from damaged fence post and wire and mailboxes.
- 7) Report damages that occur to your personal property to the TFR hotline, (512) 260-3322.

We are a community, and we shall recover as a community. We appreciate your patience, cooperation, and assistance as we undertake this monumental cleanup effort.

Yalobusha County Board of Supervisors

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Newspapers For Students

BankFirst

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662-473-1234

BankFirst, formerly Mechanics Bank, has been serving Yalobusha County since 1892, when it got its start in Water Valley. BankFirst is proud to be a part in the NFS program, realizing the importance of young people becoming aware of their community news and activities. Our young people are the very future of our community and need to be a strong part of the foundation of the community.

The NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION program provides to the students as a supplemental reading material. Newspapers remain one of the most multifaceted and effected educational resources available for students. Each week during the school year over 300 newspapers are mailed to the students in the 1st grade through the 12th grades at the Coffeeville Schools. News and information are like food for the brain. Students tell us that this program seriously promotes reading skills, plus helps establish a sense of civic identity-making our young people aware of local events right here in Coffeeville and Yalobusha County. It helps to install a sense of community and place in youth, shaping them as future citizens. Newspapers not only bring academics to life, they also depend student learning by grounding it in real-life experiences.



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