

Copiah County Courier



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Police update – HPD to end unlocking service

The courtesy service performed by officers of Hazlehurst Police Department of opening cars and trucks for motorists who have locked keys inside is going away. Police Chief Byron Swilley said his agency is ending the service as of May 20, 2016.

“We will continue to assist motorists with unlocking in emergency situations, but the everyday practice of opening car doors, we won’t be doing that anymore,” Swilley explained.

Instances where the police would get involved include children or pets being locked inside vehicles, or if a door is jammed because of an accident.

NEW RADIOS ENABLE BROADER COMMS

Swilley reported that the new Motorola APX radios purchased recently enable his officers to communicate with other agencies in Copiah County and throughout the state. The department acquired 14 of the radios, which had a total price tag of around \$33,000.

The funds to purchase the units came from a joint effort by the City of Hazlehurst and the Copiah County Board of Supervisors. “The county reimbursed the city \$15,000 after the city bought the units at a total price of a little over \$33,000,” Swilley explained.

Perry Hood, Dist. 3 Supervisor and President of the Board of Supervisors, said that the county received a grant from Homeland Security to help purchase the

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County jobless rate comes in at 6.7%

During February there were 11,530 persons in the labor force of Copiah County. Of these 770 or 6.7 percent were unemployed indicating that 10,760 Copiahians were employed. This compares with the state unemployment rate of 6.2 percent.

Last month there were 11,530 Copiahians in the work force of which 860 or 7.5 percent were unemployed indicating that 10,670 were employed. This compared with the statewide unemployment rate of 7.0 in January 2016.

Twelve month moving averages show 11,530 Copiahians in the labor force with 10,730 employed and 800

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Upcoming –

Thursday, April 21 –

FIFTY PLUS CLUB MEETING will hear the Ambassadors, an auditioned group from Copiah-Lincoln Community College’s choir under the direction of Denise Riley. The group, usually between 15-20 students, will perform a varied repertoire including sacred, gospel, and vocal jazz. The meeting will begin at 10:30 in the Anderson Building.

CUP OF SOUP MINISTRY will be serving soup from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the old youth center on Simmon St., formerly the Nutritional Center of Hazlehurst.

RECOGNIZING SEXUAL ABUSE presented by the Hazlehurst City School District Parent Resource Center will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Hazlehurst High School Media Center. Speaker will be Lashannon Butler, Program Director of Guardian Sexual Assault Center. All staff members, parents, community members, concerned citizens, etc. are encouraged to attend. For more information please contact your school’s Parent Liaison, Ms. Kadrianna Owens, Parent/Community Liaison, Hazlehurst High School, 601-894-2042 ext. 3800

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Your Local Weather

Thu 4/21	Fri 4/22	Sat 4/23	Sun 4/24	Mon 4/25
75/61	80/56	80/57	84/59	84/63
Showers and t-storms. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 60s.	Morning showers. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.
Sunrise: 6:25 AM Sunset: 7:35 PM	Sunrise: 6:24 AM Sunset: 7:35 PM	Sunrise: 6:23 AM Sunset: 7:36 PM	Sunrise: 6:22 AM Sunset: 7:37 PM	Sunrise: 6:21 AM Sunset: 7:37 PM

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JUST WAITING – A recent round-table discussion of members of the community and Calling Panther Heritage Foundation board members produced several ideas of what the renovated Millsaps Hotel will house. At one time the hotel was used as a resting point for those traveling by train and has significant historical value.

Millsaps Hotel – What will it be?

By Anna Coates

Millsaps Hotel – what will it be? For certain, it won’t be a hotel. There will be no sleeping quarters and no full service restaurant. Interested citizens on April 14 brainstormed for what the renovated building will eventually house, led by Calling Panther Heritage Foundation president Daphne Foster.

The top ten finalists

were banquet room and kitchen; arts and crafts gallery; computer lab; tea room; recording/video studio; gift shop; who’s who gallery; history/reading/verbal history area; dance studio; and sports museum. Now it’s up to the architect, Carl F. Nobles, and the head of the Calling Panther Foundation, Daphne Foster, to collaborate on how far available monies will go, and what

the layout of the building will accommodate.

Assisting at the meeting was Dr. Joan Wesley, Urban and Regional Planning Professor at Jackson State, who remains a strong supporter and adviser of the foundation. She brought three students who have been working on designs and ideas for the Millsaps Hotel as part of their PhD work. They were Tiffany



Dr. Joan Wesley

County school board solicits public input on budget June 6

The Copiah County School Board announced its annual meeting June 6 for any suggestions that patrons wish to make for the district budget for 2016-2017.

A performance bond totaling \$7,200 was returned to Landmax for Sec. 16-79N,R8E.

The monthly finance update indicates that cash on hand increased from \$15.2 million to \$16.3 million primarily from tax collections. Fund balance indicates that \$13.4 million was received and \$13.67 was expended.

Personnel action included the following resignations: Elaine Goodwin, Linda Suzanne Kuhn, Erica Perry, Alfreda Craft, Kirk Hensley and Samuel Keith Calhoun. Retirements: Daphne Johnson, Renae Pettigrew and Lurene Johnson.

Certified personnel for 2016-2017 recommended by the principals were accepted. Certified non-renewals were listed for expired licenses and other reasons.

One long term substitute was accepted and the recommendation of retir-

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COPIAH BAND TO PERFORM AT DISNEY WORLD

– The Copiah Academy Band will be traveling to Disney World this week to perform Sunday, April 24 in the Disney Festival of Fantasy parade at 2:30 p.m. While there, the band will be visiting Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, Epcot, and Hollywood Studios. They will return Tuesday, April 26. This is the first time the 65 piece band has performed at this type of venue and hopefully this will lead to additional performances at similar types of events. The band will be traveling to Orlando, Florida with a total

of 174 people for 13 hours on four charter buses. The band is under the direction of Kenneth Jolly, the director for the past 24 years. Jolly states he could not do what he does without the assistance of Janice Jolly, especially the Disney trip. She has been instrumental in helping to plan and organize the event. Jolly is also appreciative of all the people and businesses that helped the band raise the money to make this opportunity possible and sends many thanks to all those who contributed.

COMMENTARY

Ideas for old hotel endless

I was unable to attend the community meeting concerning the use of the ‘new’ Millsaps Hotel last week because of an earlier commitment. By all accounts, the Calling Panther Heritage Foundation leadership committee held a good meeting with a solid cross-section of interested individuals from all over the Hazlehurst area. Lots of great ideas for how to utilize the new facility once completed were verbalized and discussed.

Whichever the direction the facility is taken, the area would be best served by transforming it into an attraction that would be most useful to and accessible by local residents. Then, market it from there to attract tourists, passers-by, visitors to downtown and so forth. Hazlehurstians must buy into it before anyone else can.

I’m looking forward to what this discussion brings forth and the transforming ideas it brings.

New York-Mississippi picnic cancelled

We, the founders of the Mississippi Picnic in Central Park and the New York-Mississippi Society, are officially canceling this year’s picnic in its 37th year.

As a result of the unfortunate adoption of House Bill 1523, we have been informed that several concerned groups in New York City intend to demonstrate in protest of the passage of this law. Due to the controversy, the protests, and our own intensely felt dismay over HB 1523, we deeply regret that the Mississippi Picnic cannot go forward.

Our mission back in 1980 was to showcase a positive image of the state of Mississippi, and over the past 36 years, we have celebrated such cultural icons as writer Tennessee Williams, foot critic Craig Claiborne, and opera singer Leontyne Price. This



JOE B. COATES
Publisher

year we were planning to honor the great blues musician, B.B. King.

For almost four decades, The Mississippi Picnic in Central Park has consistently celebrated the best of Mississippi, without regard to race, religion, or gender orientation. We took pride in sharing our rich heritage and diversity with the rest of the world through these annual gatherings. Any law such as HB 1523 that discriminates against even a single member of our community cannot be tolerated and therefore we have decided to stand up for all Mississippians by canceling the 2016 picnic in the park.

Respectfully,
The Founders:
Ron Carter
Vicki Carter
Rachel McPherson
Diane Wiltshire



REMEMBER WHEN – Concerts at Lake Hazle were held often and a great way for the community to come together. Can anyone date this picture? Please call the Courier at 601-894-3141 if you can. We would like to know!

Unforgettable afternoon in 1979

This was September, 1979. Mississippi State’s football team was playing Maryland at College Park, Md. The late, great Orley Hood and I covered the game for the Jackson newspapers.

We spent all day Friday and Saturday morning touring our nation’s capital. Orley was — and I am — a history buff. We probably set a record for time spent by sports writers touring the Lincoln Memorial.

Saturday afternoon, we made our way over to Byrd Stadium at College Park and another history lesson we hadn’t really expected. In the press box, I found my seat right next to Sen. John C. Stennis, a former State yell leader, and the man who had replaced Theodore Bilbo in the U.S. Senate 32 years earlier. (For the record, and this is the history buff talking, we got a lot better right there.)

I timidly introduced myself to the Senator. He said, in that pronounced Kemper County drawl of his, “Ah read your stuff all the time. You must be Ace Cleveland’s boy.”

I was and am. My dad much admired Sen. Stennis and had sung his praises to me for years and years. I was in awe of Stennis. I couldn’t believe I was sitting by him. I mean, I was 27. Stennis had become a U.S. Senator five years before I was born.

The 1979 Mississippi State football season was not one fondly remembered by Bulldog fans. It was my first year at The Clarion-Ledger, the late Emory Bellard’s first as



Rick
Cleveland

head coach at State. Bellard was trying to run the Wishbone offense without a quarterback suited to run the option offense. The results were as predictable as they were dismal. State opened with a 14-13 loss to Memphis. Then came an open date, and then Maryland. The Bulldogs were decided underdogs.

The Senator, nevertheless, was optimistic. I told him I wasn’t. He told me he didn’t want to interrupt my work, but he wanted to ask me some questions. He scanned the State depth chart and came across the name of Kent Hull, the future NFL great.

“Kent Hull from Greenwood,” Stennis said in that syrupy drawl of his. “That must be ol’ Charlie Hull’s boy. Is he?”

I told him Kent was, indeed, Charlie Hull’s boy. I also told him that Kent, an under-sized freshman who wasn’t shaving yet, would make his first start at center that afternoon against Maryland’s All-American nose tackle who

was five years older and 80 pounds heavier than Kent. I mentioned that it might not be a good matchup for the Bulldogs — or for Kent.

The truth is, Bellard had wanted to red-shirt Hull and give him another year to develop. Injuries forced his hand. Kent had been a basketball star (as was his dad, Charlie) in high school. He had never really concentrated totally on football and was lean and under-sized for Division I football. It would have been hard to predict then that Hull would become one of the greatest centers in the NFL. Hull, whom Bellard would later call “as tough as a rolling bunch of butcher blades” just wasn’t big enough — yet.

So the game began and on the first play from scrimmage the Maryland All American bowled Kent over with a vicious forearm to the chin. Both the Senator and I had our binoculars trained on Kent. I looked over at Stennis, just as he peered over his spectacles at me.

Said the Senator, “Ah don’t believe Ah’ll mention that play to ol’ Charlie.”

Final score: Maryland 35, State 14. The game was forgettable. My afternoon sitting between Orley Hood and John C. Stennis, watching Charlie Hull’s boy make his first college start, was not.

Rick Cleveland is a syndicated columnist and historian at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. His email address is rcleveland@msfame.com.

Monthly public meetings –

COPIAH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, first Monday, 9 AM, Courthouse

COPIAH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, first Monday, 3 PM, County School Superintendent Office

HOSPITAL BOARD – Third Thursday of the month, 5 p.m., Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital board room, first floor.

CITY MEETINGS – Hazlehurst City Board of Aldermen, Wesson City Board of Aldermen, Crystal Springs City Board of Aldermen and Georgetown City Board of Aldermen, First Tuesday, 6 PM, City Hall

HAZLEHURST SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT School Meeting, third Wednesday, 5:30 PM, Administration Bldg.

CHAT WITH HAZLEHURST POLICE CHIEF Byron Swilley, third Thursday, 5:30 PM, Hazlehurst Police Department.

ENGAGE US!

Have an opinion about a recent event or topic? Have a solution to a problem? Write to us, and we may publish it! Let us know in 350 words or less how you can solve a problem. Please remember to provide your name, phone and address for confirmation.

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GONNA BE A SMOOTH(ER) RIDE – A paving crew with Superior Asphalt works on Dentville Road about 8 miles west of Hazlehurst. The first phase of the project will cover about 6 miles of Dentville Road, which is traditionally one of the roughest in the county, from the forks at Dentville east towards Hazlehurst. Phase Two will rework and pave the section from Hwy. 28 to meet up at the end of the first phase.



MATH-ENGINEERING FAIR AWARD WINNERS – These students were among 24 students recently participating in the Jackson State Math-Engineering Fair. The students were also able to take a tour of Jackson State and of the new Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis through Quantitative Exploration of Data (LISA-QED). Students participating in the following areas won trophies as indicated: Mathematics Bowl - 1st Place - Jeremy Welch, Oscar Castro, Ben Mohawk, Emma Mohawk - alternates were Jaylen Cummings and D'Terrious Gilmore

Unemployment – Continued from Page 1

unemployed for an employment rate of 6.9 percent. The state unemployment rate for the moving average was 6.5 percent.

Central Mississippi Planning & Copiah-Lincoln District

Statistics are also provided for junior/community college districts and in the Copiah-Lincoln District there were 59,220 in

the workforce with 55,000 employed and 4,220 or 7.1 percent unemployed during February.

In February 2016, there were 5,100 more jobs in Mississippi than in Janu-

ary, and 16,400 more than February 2015, according to the seasonally adjusted results from a survey of Mississippi employers.

County school – Upcoming –

Continued from Page 1

retiree Martha Traxler, Assistant Superintendent, was added to the part-time staff as needed.

Travel requests for 20 employees to attend the Making Connections Conference, three to the Miss. State Association of Student Councils Convention and CSHS Cheerleaders and sponsors to the Panama City Beach Summer Camp.

Salary and schedule adjustments were made for weather events. A permanent reduction from 190 to 188 days on the teacher salary scale was adopted. The schedule for salary computation was approved.

A single source purchase of the Voyager Sopris Learning program for \$7,260 was approved.

Initial planning was made for the Summer Food Service Program with details to come later.

The picture contract for the Crystal Springs El-

ementary with Bruckner's was approved.

Principals Broadhead at Crystal Springs High School and Reagan at Crystal Springs Elementary reported on efforts to deal with preparations of students for the state tests. CSHS is utilizing the Case 21 testing and CSES is utilizing Benchmark Testing and an Academy of Reading.

Difficulties with a 16th Section lease necessitated re-advertisement. An executive session on litigation was held and no action was reported.

Superintendent Rickey Clopton reported that holidays are done, testing begins May 1, there are no specific legislative matters, the calendar will be considered next month and preparations are being made for a student council trip to Audubon.

The board adjourned until May 3 at 3 p.m.

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Tuesday April 26 – WEIGHT LOSS AND/OR RACE TRAINING PREP COURSE begins for CS Tomato Festival 5k and HH Great Commission 4 miler. Call Keyhabits Fitness @ 601-573-9725 or email keyhabits@gmail.com for more information.

Thursday, April 28 – CUP OF SOUP MINISTRY will be serving soup from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the old youth center on Simmon St., formerly the Nutritional Center of Hazlehurst.

Friday, April 29 – RELAY FOR LIFE OF COPIAH COUNTY will be held at the Hazlehurst High School Football Field from 4:30 until 10:30 p.m. Survivors may pre-register by visiting www.relayforlife.org/copiahms This year's Survivor Reception is being hosted by the Crystal Springs Floral Club.

April 29-30 – WESSON FOUNDERS DAY will be held in downtown Wesson. Gospel singing Friday night. Vendors, food, music and family fun all day Saturday. Parade at 11 a.m. Street Dance Saturday night at the Old School on 8th Street. Free to the public. Call 601-643-5000 for more information.

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BRIDAL REGISTRY

Claire Whittington and Andrew Yates	April 16
Jessica Lavender and William Webb	April 21
Chelsey Hood and Mitchell Wilkinson	April 23
Brooke Wilson and Sam Ballard	May 21
Madison Claire Donahoe and Michael Williams . .	June 4

Police –

Continued from Page 1

equipment. "All this was done to help bring everyone in the county into the Mississippi Wireless Information Network," Hood explained. "The county incurred no cost whatsoever, and now each municipality in Copiah County is online with MSWIN."

MSWIN serves the State of Mississippi by providing reliable redundant communications for our state's first responders. The MSWIN System consists of over 144 tower sites and a point-to-point microwave backhaul network. MSWIN is monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days per year to ensure that it is available at all times, according to the Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission website (<http://www.wcc.ms.gov/Pages/MSWIN.aspx>). The ultimate goal of the MSWIN system is to give all agencies in the state the ability to share information

at critical times, such as during a natural disaster, a nuclear power plant accident and any other types of emergencies that will require mobilization of civil defense agencies.

"I want to thank our city and our county for stepping up with the funds to buy these crucial law enforcement tools," Swilley added.

CHAT WITH THE CHIEF THURSDAY

Swilley reminds the public that the monthly Chat with the Chief program is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. this Thursday at Hazlehurst Police Department Court Room on East Whitworth Street. "Our speaker this time will be Nic Ricceri, administrator of Region 8 Copiah County Mental Health Services in Hazlehurst," Swilley said. For more information about Chat with the Chiefs, contact the Hazlehurst Police Department at 601-894-1181.

Millsaps –

Continued from Page 1

Lomax and Abe Hudson, who facilitated the meeting. Sara Hidouk, a Master's degree candidate in the same field, presented a virtual demonstration of a proposed music garden to be placed behind the hotel.

Those in attendance were able to visualize what such a venue could mean to the people of Hazlehurst in the future. It remains to be seen just what will actually take place, as it will be a work in progress for some time.

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