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HIGHLIGHTS

Nominations wanted for E-J's Father of the Year

The Enterprise-Journal is accepting nominations for the 2016 Father of the Year.

Letters nominating fathers in our area to be honored are being accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, June 3.

Only nominations that include a letter detailing why an individual should be Father of the Year will be considered.

Letters may be emailed to news@enterprise-journal.com, mailed to P.O. Box 2009, McComb, MS 39649, dropped by the office at 112 Oliver Emerich Drive or faxed to 684-0836.

DEATHS

Dr. Richard Ballew, 82
Bradley D. Brown, 25
Brady L. Magee, 63
Chavis McElveen, 37
Jennifer L. Pace, 4s
Jessie J. Reed Sr., 66
Louise W. Shaw, 76
W.J. Simmons, 74
Jed Hunter Wall, 59

A3

COMING UP

See who's graduating from local high schools.



Inside

OUTSIDE

Today

Rain
High: 81
Low: 64
Rain: 80%
Wind: NE, 5

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Mayor: Fully upgrade road

Selectmen debate proposal to add to Parklane Road project

BY CLAY RUSSELL
ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

Parklane Road would receive dramatic upgrades under a plan Mayor Whitney Rawlings proposed at Tuesday's work session of the McComb city board.

The mayor floated the idea of spending \$125,000 from the city's general fund

to improve the road beyond the short stretch that has already been resurfaced.

Added to \$500,000 allocated for Parklane from a \$2 million bond last year and a \$375,000 earmark in a state bond bill this year, the new money would bring the cost of Parklane Road enhancements to an even \$1 million.

In just the last month, about one-third of a mile of Parklane has been repaved, from Presley Boulevard northward.

City administrator Joseph Parker expanded on Rawlings' comments, saying he wanted to "make sure we have enough dollars to make the project complete and worthwhile."

Last August, Rawlings proposed rebuilding Parklane Road in what he termed a "complete street" design, which covers not only the paved surface itself but sidewalks, curbs, gutters and drainage as well.

This approach would require securing rights-of-way in areas where the city does not own the land adjacent to the road.

The new money would al-

low Parklane to receive a "complete street" upgrade beginning at 24th Street and heading north.

Rawlings said the plan he presented last year came with a \$1.3 million tab, but "we'll try to do as much as we can with a million."

That amount might cover 2,000 feet of work, or possibly less, he said.

SEE ROAD, PAGE A2



ERNEST HERNDON | ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

Zachary Kent, 10, watches as Dr. Jeff Bulington sets up chess pieces. A successful businessman with ties to Franklin County recruited Bulington to teach local kids how to play chess.

Police: Half-naked man darts in and out of traffic

Callers say man was wearing bedsheet, little else

FROM STAFF REPORTS

McComb police received a call Wednesday afternoon that likely led to some distracted driving after callers reported seeing a man wearing little more than a bedsheet running in and out of traffic along Interstate 55.

Sgt. Bryant Harper said the man was headed north on I-55 and lost control of his white Chrysler PT Cruiser, which came to rest next to the cable barriers and was facing south in the left shoulder of the northbound lane.

Harper said the man, who was draped in a bedsheet and wearing nothing but his underwear beneath it, got out of the vehicle and began walking north and darting in and out of interstate traffic.

Police said they did not know where the man was headed.

Officers said he was not hurt in the accident.

Police are not identifying the man, who reportedly has health issues and has not been taking his medication, Harper said.

Blind man charged in shooting

FROM STAFF REPORTS

McComb police say a blind man is in custody this morning after he allegedly tried to shoot another man just after midnight.

Detective Shannon Sullivan said police arrested Dudley Ross, 52, 913 13th St., McComb, around 12:35 a.m. today and charged him with possession of a weapon by a convicted felon.

Sullivan said officers received a call that shots had been fired at Ross' house, and that the gunman was blind. An incomplete incident report did not specify who Ross' intended target was or what led to the shooting. No injuries were reported.

Skill and strategy

Chess comes to Franklin County; elementary kids win competitions

BY ERNEST HERNDON
ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

BUDE—Imagine a soccer coach comes to a school that has never seen the sport, and in less than a year his players are winning on state and national levels. Substitute chess for soccer and that's what has happened in Franklin County.

Last June, chess expert Dr. Jeff Bulington of Memphis was recruited to head up a program in county schools. Now the program has 150 players in lower and upper elementary schools, a building in downtown Meadville is being converted into a chess center, and elementary school kids recently brought home trophies from state and national competitions.

But winning trophies is just a small part of chess, which boosts brainpower and academic achievement.

"I wanted to do something in a rural area. That's where I grew up," said Bulington, 50, who was raised in small-town Indiana.

"I know the struggles of someone who wants to grow up and be a chess player in an area where there is no formal chess."

School officials are thrilled with the program.

"This has been an opportunity that our students



ERNEST HERNDON | ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL



Some of Franklin County's chess trophies stand in front of a chart showing how each chess piece moves.

would have not had in the past," said Marsha Webb, principal of Franklin County Lower Elementary. "We feel that in learning chess they are gaining skills for life as well as academics."

Tammy Griffin is a substitute school nurse and mother of two children who are now playing chess.

"It's been very good for their confidence. They love playing and they love com-

peting," she said. "I'm sure that it helps with concentration, problem solving, reasoning, attention span, thinking ahead."

Last year, a man who calls himself "a friend of Franklin County" contacted Bulington about setting up a chess foundation there.

"His interest was in Franklin County and helping it, and he was aware that my previous projects had a big influence on student academic achievement," Bulington said.

SEE CHESS, PAGE A7