



Bolivar County's weekly source for community news.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023

Board of Aldermen Meet

Recent Park Commission tournament was a success

BY MARK H. STOWERS
The Bolivar Bullet

This past week's Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting was short and efficient. Much appreciation was given for the Park Commission Work in putting together and pulling off the tournament in town despite the weather problems. And Cleveland teams took six state championships and two state runner ups out of 11 Cleveland All Star Teams. he estimated that 750 athletes participated in the baseball and softball programs and the numbers are close to the pre-Covid numbers.

In other business, Clint Johnson, Airport Director explained there is a need for a new gas tank at the airport.

"I received a request from Advanced Mosquito Control to place a 500-gallon unleaded fuel tank next to their 100-gallon low-lead fuel tank to be used for all of their mosquito control trucks. Airport Commission signed off on it," said Johnson.

The motion was made to accept the request by Gary Gainspoletti and seconded by Kirk Povall and passed unanimously.

Johnson met with Mike Hainsey recently retired Director of the Golden Triangle Airport

in Lowndes County. Since the Cleveland Airport has not been successful in applying for the FAA Terminal Grant program, Hainsey has submitted two successful bids. Johnson asked to hire Hainsey as a consultant to help create and submit the grants. The fee would be \$200 plus 1% of the grant only if the grant is awarded.

"Ninety-nine percent is better than nothing," said Gainspoletti.

Alderman Danny Abraham asked if Hainsey was working for any other municipalities. But, Johnson did not know. Abraham noted he thought it was a "good idea."

"He feels pretty confident that we would get



awarded," said Johnson.

The motion to approve was made by Povall and seconded by Gainspoletti and was unanimously approved.

Headstart Fun Day

Friday, June 30 in Downtown Cleveland

Special to *The Bolivar Bullet*



Bolivar County Head Start is having a recruitment fun day this Friday, June 30 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The activities will be located in Cleveland on the downtown green strip directly in front of the police station. There will be bouncers for the children as well as hotdogs, chips and drinks. The community is invited to attend and learn about all that head start has to offer.

BCHP is a comprehensive program for children birth to age five. Their goal is to enhance the student's social and cognitive development through education, health services, dental health, disability services, mental health as well as social and nutritional services. Activities are provided in each classroom which will aid child development, and the curriculum helps build skills in language, literacy, mathematics, science, and so much more. BCHP consists of six district centers including Mound Bayou, Rosedale, Shaw, Cleveland One, Cleveland Two, and Cleveland Three. Each head start center is closed from June 26 -July 28, but someone at central office or one of the center directors will be able to assist you with any questions. Enrollment is open year-round. If you are unable to attend the recruitment event on Friday, you may call or visit central office and ask for Ora Jackson.

Sunflower County Film Academy

Youth workshop ongoing in Cleveland



Students Zariah Burl (left), Merion Turner (right) and Aaron Johnson (far right) work with instructor Ben Powell (center)



Zariah Burl, a junior at Cleveland Central sets up a shot during the workshop



Students (left to right) Peyton James, Merion Turner and Jonarious Lee on the set of their class film, "Help Wanted"



Student Peyton James adjusts the camera for a shot. Instructor Glenn Payne and student Ariyanna Duvall in the background

BY JACK CRISS
The Bolivar Bullet

The 2023 Sunflower County Film Academy (SCFA), in conjunction with the Delta Arts Alliance of Cleveland, has been holding a youth film workshop at Ellis Theatre in Cleveland which started June 5 and will continue through the end of this week.

The summer workshop is designed

to teach filmmaking and digital media skills to high school students in the Mississippi Delta. The Academy received a \$4,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi (CFNM) recently which is supporting the workshop.

"As part of our tribute to Aunt Fannie Lou, a Mississippi Delta native, the workshop continues one of her missions of giving students in the Delta

educational/career opportunities. In the case of the SCFA, in the filmmaking industry," said Monica Land, SCFA Administrator. "We partnered with Lauren and Ben Powell and the Delta Arts Alliance in December and the workshop is underway now. The students are having a great time and have started production on their class

FILM ACADEMY continued, PAGE A6

Dr. Fakarede Honored Nationally

Recognized for work providing access to quality health care for all

Special to *The Bolivar Bullet*

When Dr. Foluso Fakarede moved to the Mississippi Delta in 2015, he was shocked — and disturbed — by high rates of peripheral artery disease and other cardiovascular conditions among Black people.

"It's very common here to go to the grocery store and see a patient walking with a dialysis catheter in their neck or an amputee using a walker on tennis balls," said Fakarede, an interventional cardiologist in Cleveland, Mississippi. "It makes you wonder: Is this America? We are a very wealthy nation that

touts our health care, but our outcomes are not matching our spending on treatment."

To help remedy persistently poor outcomes and lack of preventive care in the Mississippi Delta region, an area with a particularly high percentage of Black residents, Fakarede established Cardiovascular Solutions of Central Mississippi. His mission is to educate and provide access to quality health care for all.

Because of his lifesaving efforts, Fakarede is the recipient of this year's Louis B. Russell Jr. Memorial Award, which the American Heart Association presents annually for outstanding service to under-resourced

communities. Fakarede was honored on June 14 at Grammy Museum Mississippi during the AHA's National Volunteer Awards virtual public ceremony.

Since starting the clinic, Fakarede has focused on making the community — including his patients (most of them low income), doctors and policymakers — aware of peripheral artery disease.

Fakarede said he's especially dismayed at how common PAD-related amputations to legs, toes and feet are among Black people. Yet, many people he encounters in



FAKAREDE continued, PAGE A6

SUPERINTENDENT*Continued from Page A1*

confidence in her leadership team.”

Bramuchi is excited to have the interim status removed and sees the promotion as a stamp of approval on her team

and not just her.

“I felt like the team we have in place works together creating good leadership the district level. The team is very cohesive and I felt like it wasn’t just about me, but the school board was comfortable with what our team is doing to lead the district right direction,” she

said. “It wasn’t about only me, it’s about all of us.”

Her goals include, “We have a list of goals moving forward, one of which is helping improve the schools from the ground up,” said Bramuchi. “We’ve been trimming trees, have a three million dollar restroom

improvement project going on, and we are still waiting on our air conditioners that will be delivered in November. That project was started before I came on board and supply chain issues created a delay. We are putting in heat/cool window units so we won’t have to start the school year off

in the heat.”

Bramuchi also noted, “for me personally, I want people to pay taxes and not tuition and come back to the public schools and recognize it’s a great place to get a quality education.”

Other improvements include roofing projects and

cafeteria renovations.

Her leadership team’s hashtag is #committed.

“We’re all committed to making the Cleveland School District the best it can be.”

The district had nearly 3,000 students enrolled this past year.

SCHOLARSHIP*Continued from Page A1*

John is a part of the track team, running the 4x100m, 4x200m, 110m hurdles, 300m hurdles and long jump. In football, Eubanks played wide receiver in middle school and transitioned to cornerback in football his freshman year of high school. His contributions to the team led them to receive several accolades in 2022 which includes advancing to State in Pearl for the 4x200m and 4x100m and first round of the playoffs in football

for Cleveland Central High School.

Outside of school, Eubanks has had the privilege of serving as a Senate Page for Senator Sarita Simmons during his junior year. He has also participated in several community service efforts with Excellent Service for Humanity, Boss Lady Pam Chatman and the CCHS Football team. John also holds a part time job at 122 Hang Suite where he is a waiter. In August 2023, Eubanks plans to attend Coahoma Community College where he will major in Business Administration.

DSU AVIATION*Continued from Page A1*

legislature.

Saia, along with Brad McNealy, Director of Flight Operations, Garrett Gee, Manager of Flight Operations, Marshall Tomlinson Manager of Flight Standards, and DSU Lead Aircraft Mechanic and Inspector Jimmy Christianson

traveled to Knoxville to inspect and take delivery. The aircraft will be flown back to Cleveland after they finish training this Friday. Cleveland Airport staff members Garrett Gee and Marshall Tomlinson made the trip as well, and will stay for a week of training with Cirrus professional test pilots and instructors.

EVERS*Continued from Page A1*

The building which housed the company is no longer there, said Peterson, but a marker is placed at the site where it was once housed between two magnolia trees planted to commemorate the business.

“The Evers family also lived just north of where Peter’s Pottery is located now,” said Peterson. “And his brother Charles married a lady from that area which is how Medgar ended up residing there. I never knew him, but I have gotten to know Myrlie and his children in the years since.”

Proving up to the task in his first experience as a civil rights organizer, he spearheaded the group’s boycott against gas stations that refused to let Black people use their restrooms.

With his brother Charles, Evers also worked on behalf of the NAACP, organizing local affiliates.

Evers applied to the University of Mississippi Law School in February 1954. After being rejected, he volunteered to help the NAACP try to integrate the university with a lawsuit. Thurgood Marshall served as his attorney for this legal challenge to racial discrimination. While he failed to gain admission to the law school, Evers managed to raise his profile with the NAACP.

Later in 1954, Evers became the first field secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi and moved his family to Jackson, leaving Mound Bayou. As state field secretary, Evers traveled around Mississippi extensively, recruiting new members for the NAACP and organizing voter-registration efforts. Evers also led demonstrations

and economic boycotts of white-owned companies that practiced discrimination.

Evers was one of Mississippi’s most prominent civil rights activists. He fought racial injustices in many forms, including how the state and local legal systems handled crimes against African Americans. Evers called for a new investigation into the 1955 lynching of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American boy who had allegedly been killed for talking to a white woman. He also protested the conviction of his fellow Mississippi civil rights activist Clyde Kennard on theft charges in 1960.

Evers’s efforts made him a target for those who opposed racial equality and desegregation. He and his family were subjected to numerous threats and violent actions, including a

firebombing of his house in May 1963, shortly before his murder.

The first Mississippi state field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Evers was shot in the back in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi, shortly after midnight on June 12, 1963. He died less than an hour later at a nearby hospital. The home stands as a shrine and historic marker today.

Evers was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, and the NAACP posthumously awarded him its 1963 Spingarn Medal. The national outrage over Evers’ murder increased support for legislation that would become the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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FILM ACADEMY*Continued from Page A2*

film which will have its public screening on Friday, June 30 at Noon. The students will show their film to friends and family and answer any questions the audience may have about their work and what they learned during the workshop,” said Land.

“CFNM is proud to support the Sunflower County Film Academy, in partnership with a longtime nonprofit partner Delta Arts Alliance, for the summer film workshop,” said the Foundation’s Development Director Stacye Trout in a

press release. “This grant will not only support high school students learning about the rich history of the Mississippi Delta, but they will be able to creatively share the culture with the world.”

The purpose of the SCFA is to offer Mississippi Delta students, most of whom are students of color, training for careers in the entertainment industry.

Initiated in 2018, the SCFA is a free summer workshop that offers students training in filmmaking using professional-grade equipment. The workshop offers two forms of engagement. Students learn about the rich and

cultural history of the Delta in a classroom setting. And they create their own video narratives from concept to scripting to shooting, editing, and screening their film on the last day of class.

“We are so grateful for the support of Keith Fulcher, Stacye Trout and the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi,” said Land. “We want our students to have broader career choices. So many of them are already expressing themselves artistically and creatively on social media through video stories. We want to help them develop that ability and hopefully take it farther as a career option

in the film and television industry.

“Our mission at CFNM is to impact communities in the areas of Youth, Health, and Education. We are pleased to fund this project to help youth advance their film and digital media education skills,” continued Trout.

Prior SCFA workshops were held in Indianola and Sumner and all instructors are professional and award-winning filmmakers. Instructors for this 2023 include Glenn Payne of Dead Leaf Productions and Ben Powell of Broken Arm Studio. In 2022, SCFA organizers partnered with the Delta Arts Alliance for

future workshops. Powell also conducts after-school filmmaking programs for younger students at the Delta Arts Alliance.

The SCFA is part of the K-12 curriculum for Fannie Lou Hamer’s America, a multimodal project that explores and celebrates the life of the Sunflower County native. Hamer, a Mississippi-sharecropper-turned-civil-rights-activist, helped thousands to register to vote in the 1960s and 70s. She was also a humanitarian providing food, housing and jobs within the Delta community. The centerpiece of the overall project is a 90-minute documentary, also

named “Fannie Lou Hamer’s America,” where Hamer tells her own story in her own voice through archival footage. The film premiered on PBS and WORLD Channel in February 2022 and is now available on several streaming platforms.

“We are providing lunch and snacks for the students and they get a small stipend at the end of the workshop,” said Land. “This is an incentive for taking the class because a lot of students are looking for summer jobs. We want them to take our class and not feel like they missed out on earning a little money for the summer.”

FAKAREDE*Continued from Page A2*

the region have never heard of the condition in which narrowed arteries reduce blood flow to arms or legs.

Consequently, Fakorede and his staff don’t just wait for patients to show up at the clinic. Instead, they go to congregations, schools, civic groups and medical schools to raise awareness about PAD.

Their efforts, which include aggressive screening and intervention strategies,

led to an 88% decrease in amputation rates over a four-year period in the Delta.

Fakorede, who grew up in Nigeria and came to the United States when he was 14 years old, said he was inspired to become a doctor when he visited a clinic in Nigeria where his mother was a nurse. There, he saw how much respect patients and staff had for the resident cardiothoracic surgeon.

Later, Fakorede attended Rutgers University and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and he completed his training at

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell hospital and Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey.

Over the years, Fakorede realized that a confluence of factors contributed to significantly worse outcomes for Black and Hispanic patients. For example, Black people are up to three times more likely to develop PAD. Yet, they’re less likely to be diagnosed and promptly treated.

Also, peripheral artery disease hasn’t historically been taught in many medical schools, so some primary

doctors aren’t familiar with the symptoms.

Another issue, Fakorede said, is the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force, an organization that makes recommendations about preventive services, doesn’t recommend early screening for patients who are high risk for PAD.

“The argument is that there’s not enough patient data, but how will you get that data if historically people of color have not been recruited in clinical studies?” Fakorede said. “Yet, we know that Black and brown patients

are disproportionately dying younger and faster (from complications of diseases for which they are not being recommended for screening). And we know that social determinants play a huge role in patient health. It’s a systemic failure.”

In 2018, as part of a congressional delegation, Fakorede testified on Capitol Hill to support legislation to stop preventable amputations and improve PAD research, education and treatment.

He’s also served as co-chairperson of the PAD Initiative of the Association

of Black Cardiologists and played a key role with the AHA’s PAD National Action Plan that aims to reduce PAD — and its disparate burden on people in under-resourced communities.

“It takes courage and perseverance in the face of injustice and structural racism in health care to address these issues,” Fakorede said. “But we have an opportunity to carve out tomorrow’s justice by bridging the gap in the inequities that have plagued marginalized communities for decades.”

NOTICE

The Board of Trustees of West Bolivar Consolidated School District, Rosedale, MS will hold a public hearing to present and discuss the FY24 ad valorem tax request and the proposed FY24 school year budget at 5:00 p. m. on June 29, 2023 at Joe Barnes Career Technical Center in Rosedale, MS. All citizens are invited to attend.

The West Bolivar Consolidated School Board of Trustees will hold a special call meeting on July 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. to adopt the FY24 ad valorem tax request and the FY24 budget at Joe Barnes Career Technical Center in Rosedale, MS.

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