

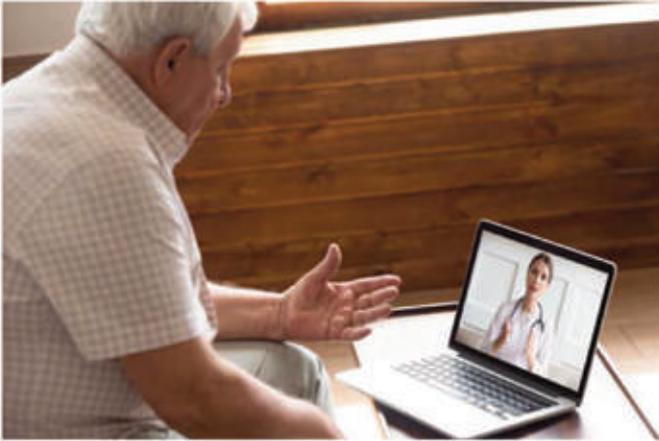
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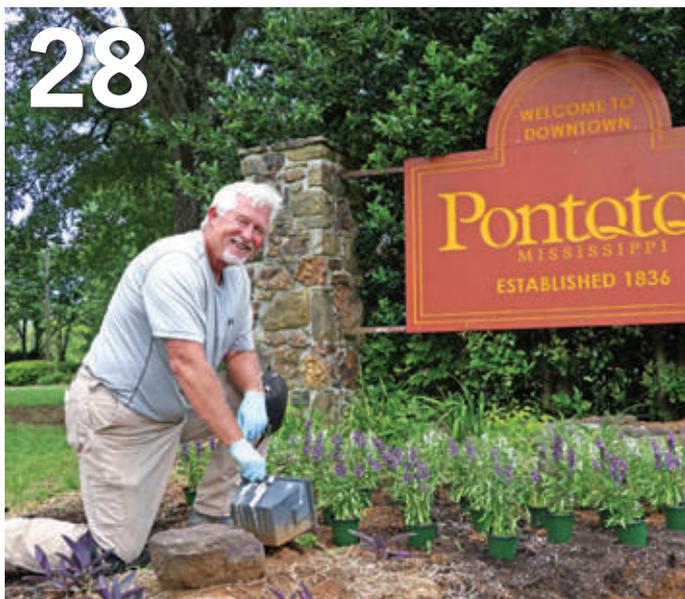


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Welcome Home to Pontotoc

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**Associate Publisher/
General Manager**
Lisa Bryant

Managing Editor
David Helms

Staff Reporter
Regina Butler

Sports Editor
Jonathan Wise

Graphic Designer
Chelsea Williams

Advertising Consultant
Angie Quarles

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Tonya Criddle

Contributing Writer
Galen Holley

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- Regina Butler



PHOTO BY TERRY WOOD

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Officers Travarious Wheeler and Sgt. Mark Covington clear the streets for the Fourth of July Kids' Parade.

PONTOTOC BIKE PATROL

proves invaluable at special events

Story and Photos by **DAVID HELMS**

When speed and power are needed for law enforcement, the police cruiser is still the number one tool for law officers who patrol the streets 24/7.

But when it comes to patrolling large crowds in more confined spaces, it's all about pedal-power for the seven members of the Pontotoc Bike Patrol.

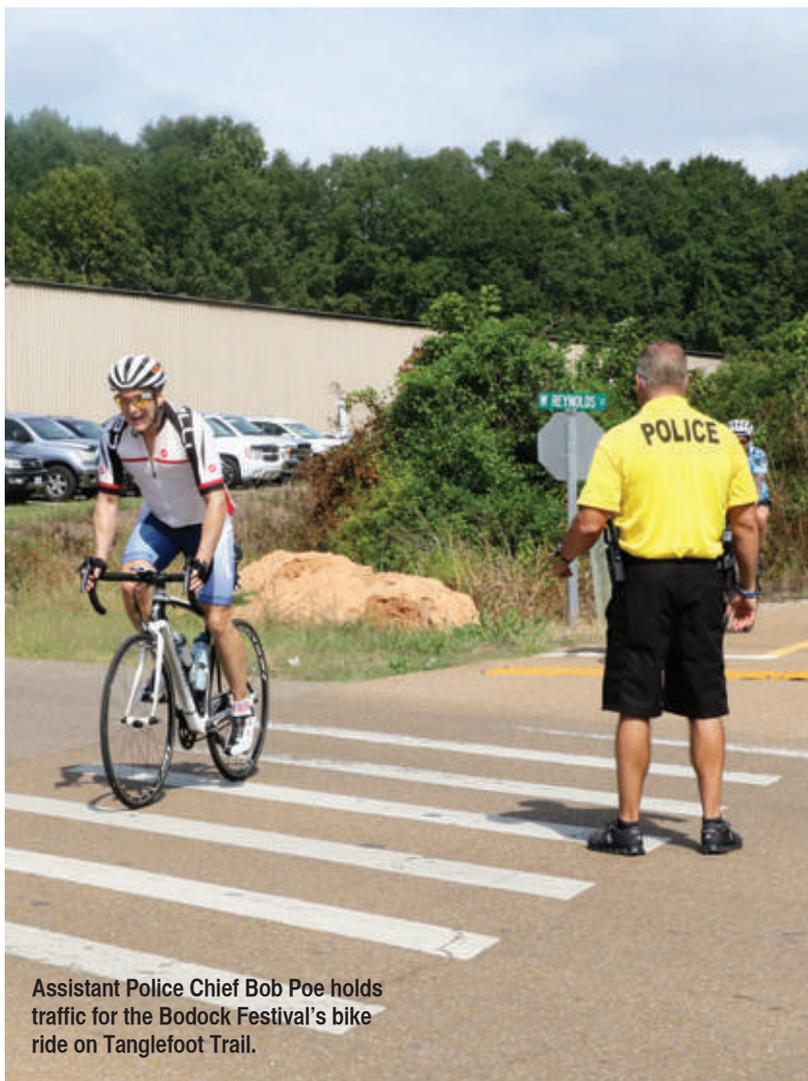
The Pontotoc Bike Patrol was started in 2015 and Pontotoc Police Chief Randy Tutor said the bike unit was a natural transition into the city's still growing bicycle culture.

"The Tanglefoot Trail officially opened in September 2013 and immediately lots and lots of folks were

walking the trail and buying bicycles, plus folks were coming from hundreds of miles away to ride bikes," Tutor noted. "We saw that we were fast becoming a bike community and several officers were on board with us training and launching a bike patrol."

Chief Tutor said it's the bike patrol's mobility that makes them so effective.

"It is that mobility that makes the bike patrol so invaluable, especially in the large crowds that we have at special events," Tutor noted. "In fact the 2015 Fourth of July downtown parade and fireworks show at Howard Stafford Park were the first two events patrolled by the bike unit."



Assistant Police Chief Bob Poe holds traffic for the Bodock Festival's bike ride on Tanglefoot Trail.

“The bike patrol also gives us increased accessibility, especially in large crowds, which hamper the movement of patrol cars. In a confined area like Howard Stafford Park the bike patrol is the best tool to deal with criminal activity and medical emergencies. An officer on a bike can cover some ground quickly.”

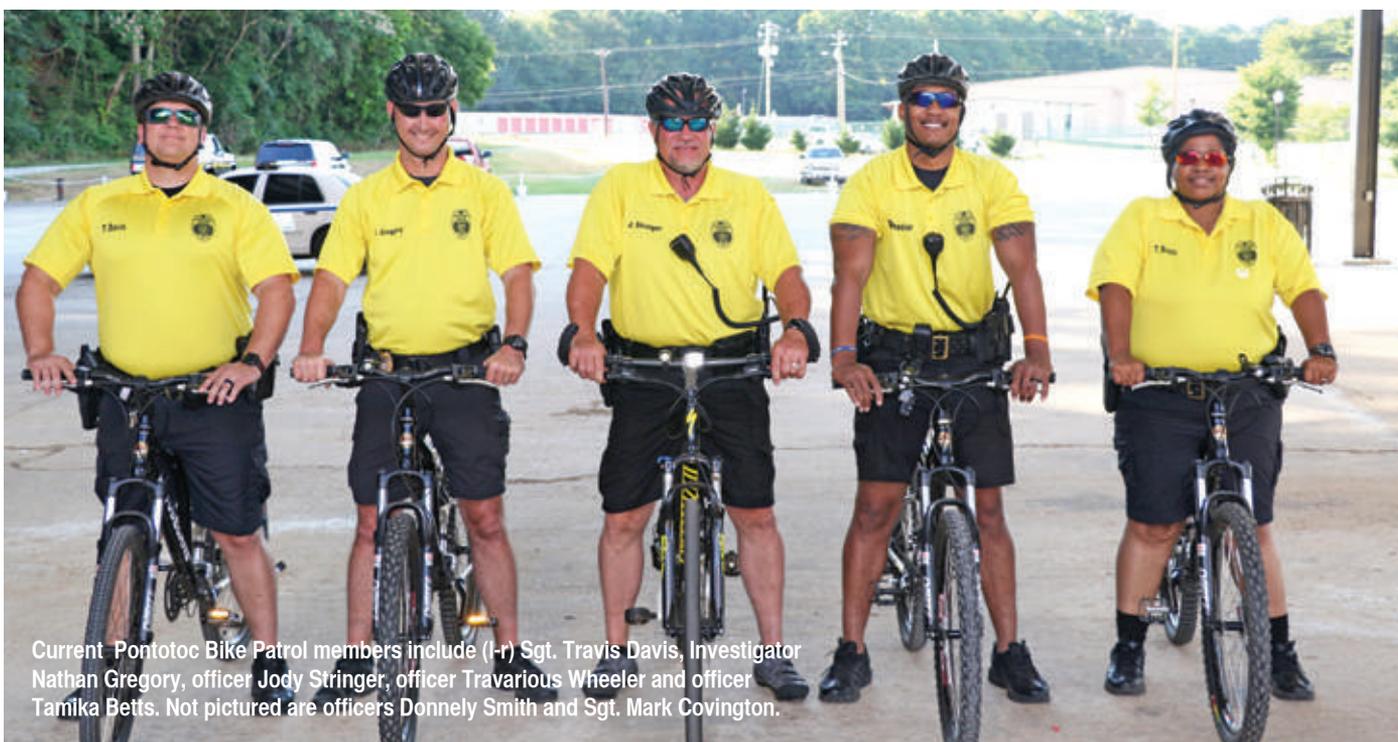
Chief Tutor emphasized that the bike patrol has worked lots of events over the past five years.

“They do a great job at the Christmas Parade, Fourth of July, the Veterans Parade, homecoming parades, runs and water walk, pep rallies and events like the Bodock Festival and Juneteenth Festival,” Tutor said. “Officers on bicycles are not only mobile, but also highly visible and easy to contact. In the past our officers were often on foot at these types of events.”

Tutor said the bike unit also provides close interaction with Pontotoc residents.

“An officer on a bicycle provides great opportunity to interact with the public. It’s great for community relations, gives our officers a chance to get out of the police car setting and the kids love the bikes. It gives us a chance to talk with folks, have kids see us in a different light and mingle with folks.”

“We’re a bicycle oriented society now and the increased visibility of the bike patrol working all these events puts the police department more in step with what’s going on in the community.”



Current Pontotoc Bike Patrol members include (l-r) Sgt. Travis Davis, Investigator Nathan Gregory, officer Jody Stringer, officer Travarious Wheeler and officer Tamika Betts. Not pictured are officers Donnely Smith and Sgt. Mark Covington.



Pontotoc Police Chief Randy Tutor and bike officers Jody Stringer, Travarious Wheeler, Sgt. Mark Covington and Donnely Smith wait for start of the First Baptist Church Walk for Water.



Officer Donnely Smith



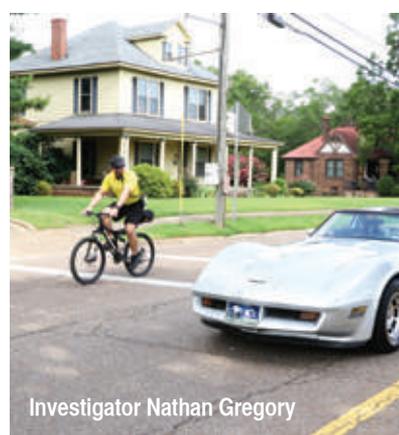
Officers Jody Stringer and Sgt. Travis Davis



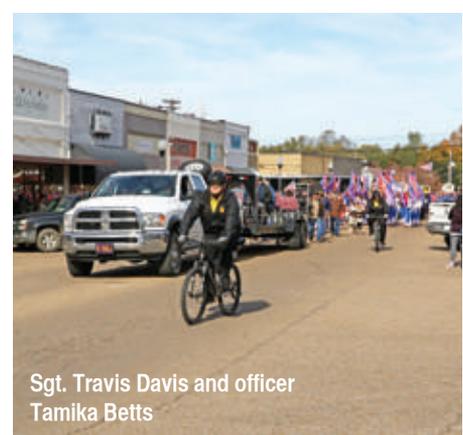
Bodock Festival visitors chat with Officers Cole Tutor, Donnely Smith and Sgt. Mark Covington.



Officer Donnely Smith and Sgt. Mark Covington



Investigator Nathan Gregory



Sgt. Travis Davis and officer Tamika Betts



When the bike patrol was formed five years ago the four police officer unit received 40 hours of training taught by Sgt. Steve Tow of the Hernando Police Department.

“Those guys did some traffic patrol training on Main and Beale Streets in Memphis, so this bike training is serious business.”

Bike patrol training includes general patrol procedures, bicycle firearms training; dismount and arrest procedures; trail and off-road riding skills; traffic patrolling; step climbing and tight maneuvers.

“We’ve changed personnel several times since then and now we have our own training module and do it ourselves,” Tutor said. “The main emphasis is on the safety of the officers and them not getting run over while patrolling.”

The 2015 original four members of the bike patrol included Shad Long, Nathan Gregory, Erick Pettit and Brad Owen. Pontotoc fireman Jeremy Maxey also completed the bicycle training program.

The seven members of the current Pontotoc Bike Patrol includes Investigator Nathan Gregory, officer Tamika Betts, Sgt. Travis Davis, officer Donnelly Smith, Sgt. Mark Covington, officer Travarius Wheeler and part-time officer Jody Stringer.

Officer Travarius Wheeler said he has enjoyed his two years as a member of the Bike Patrol.



Officers Nathan Gregory and Travarius Wheeler chat with Fourth of July Parade walkers Claire and Bobby McGee.



“I really enjoy our time working on the bike squad,” Wheeler said. “We get to interact and communicate with the people in the crowd. If you are on foot patrol or stationed at one post you are more limited with the people you get to see or talk with.”

“When I’m on the bike we cover a lot of ground and we’re right there with the people we protect and serve. We get to mingle and build bonds with the folks in the community. The bike puts you right there in tune with what you’re seeing and hearing. It’s close and personal.”

Bike patrol may be a break from normal car patrol, but he says it’s still serious work.

“Even though we’re on a bike we still have a job to do. We have to be aware of our surroundings at all times. During the recent protest rally we rode side by side with the folks who marched and it was our job to keep them safe and maintain law and order. You’re on a bike but you are still a police officer.”

Investigator Nathan Gregory, who has been on the bike squad since it was formed in 2015, said he’s proud that the unit plays an important role in law enforcement in Pontotoc.

“People now expect to see the bike officers at the special events

and large gatherings and that’s good to know that people are glad to see us there doing our job,” Gregory said. “Lots of times when vendors are setting up for an event, they want to know if the bike squad is going to be out patrolling the area.”

“And the mobility of the bike officers has proven effective. There was an incident where someone was injured with a Christmas float and we were able to respond very quickly to that emergency.”

Gregory said the bike officers are trained on the bikes, just like they are with all police equipment.

“We practice tight maneuvers and slow speed control and stuff like emergency dismounts for safety purposes and to apprehend suspects. There’s a lot more to it than just riding around on a bicycle. You have to be aware of your surroundings and communicate with other officers. And you have to be careful not to get run over or run over someone. But I’ve enjoyed it.”

Chief Tutor said he would love one day to expand the bike patrol to helping patrol the Tanglefoot Trail.

“Right now we don’t have the manpower but the bike unit has proven to be a really valuable tool. It’s all been very positive, both from the law enforcement side and the public relations side.”





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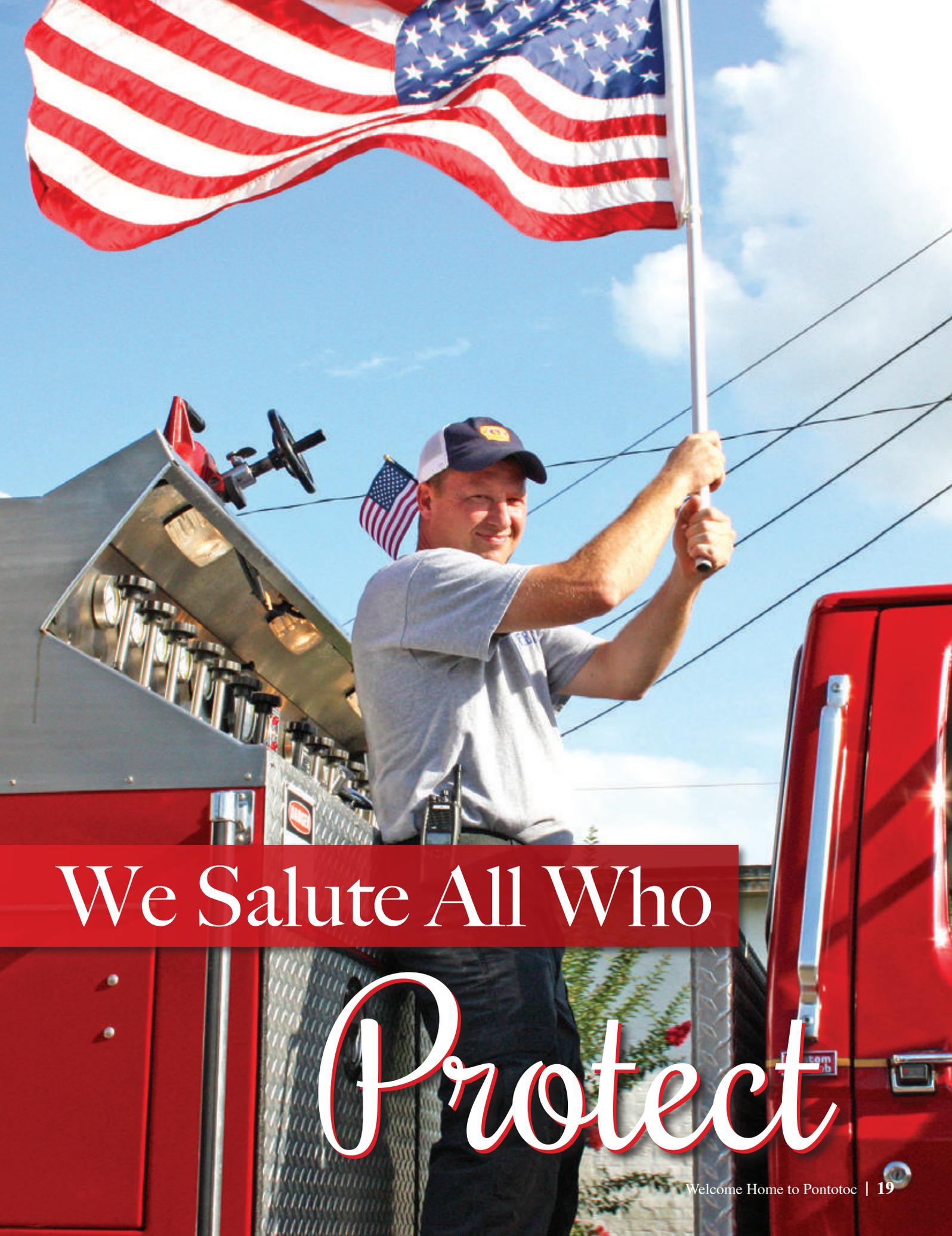


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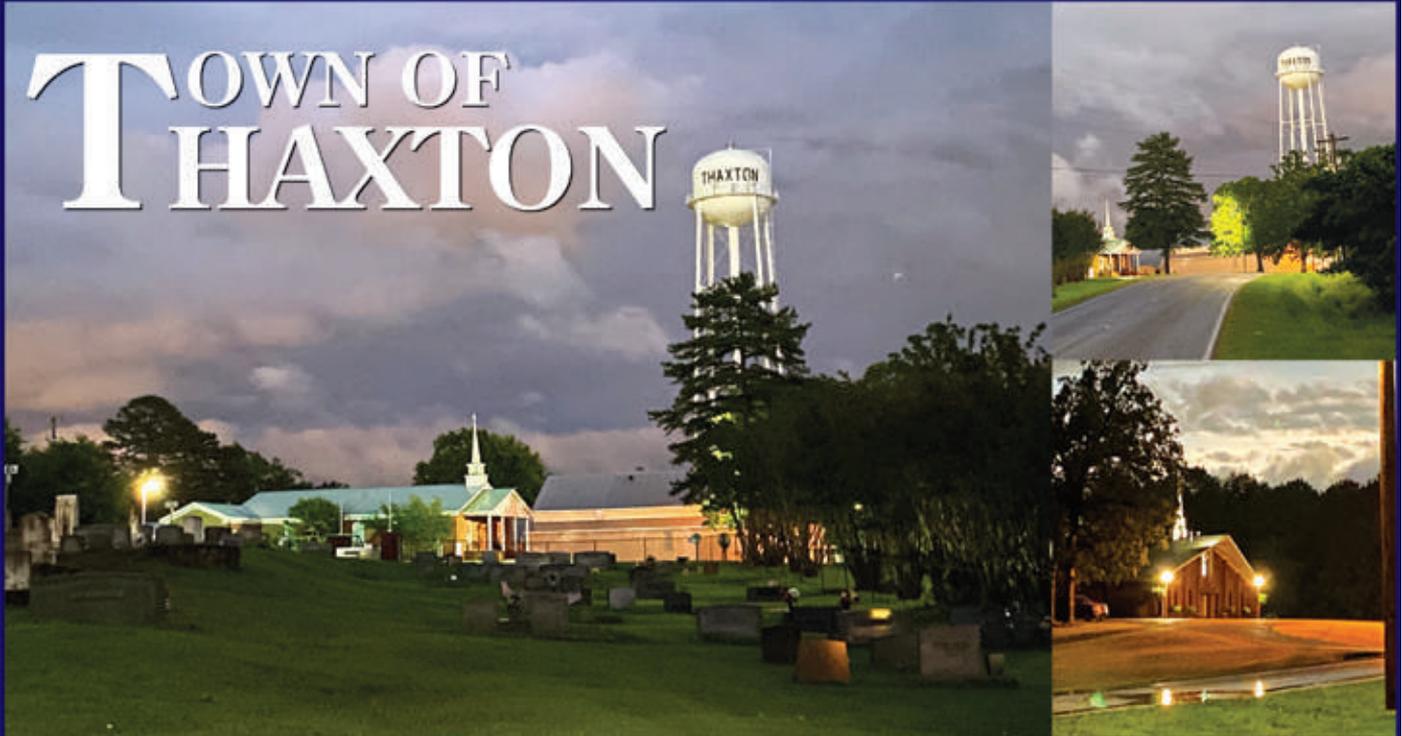
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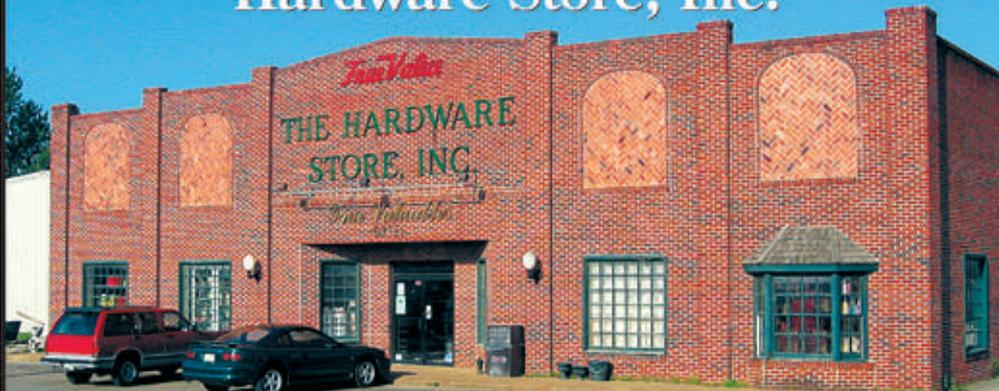
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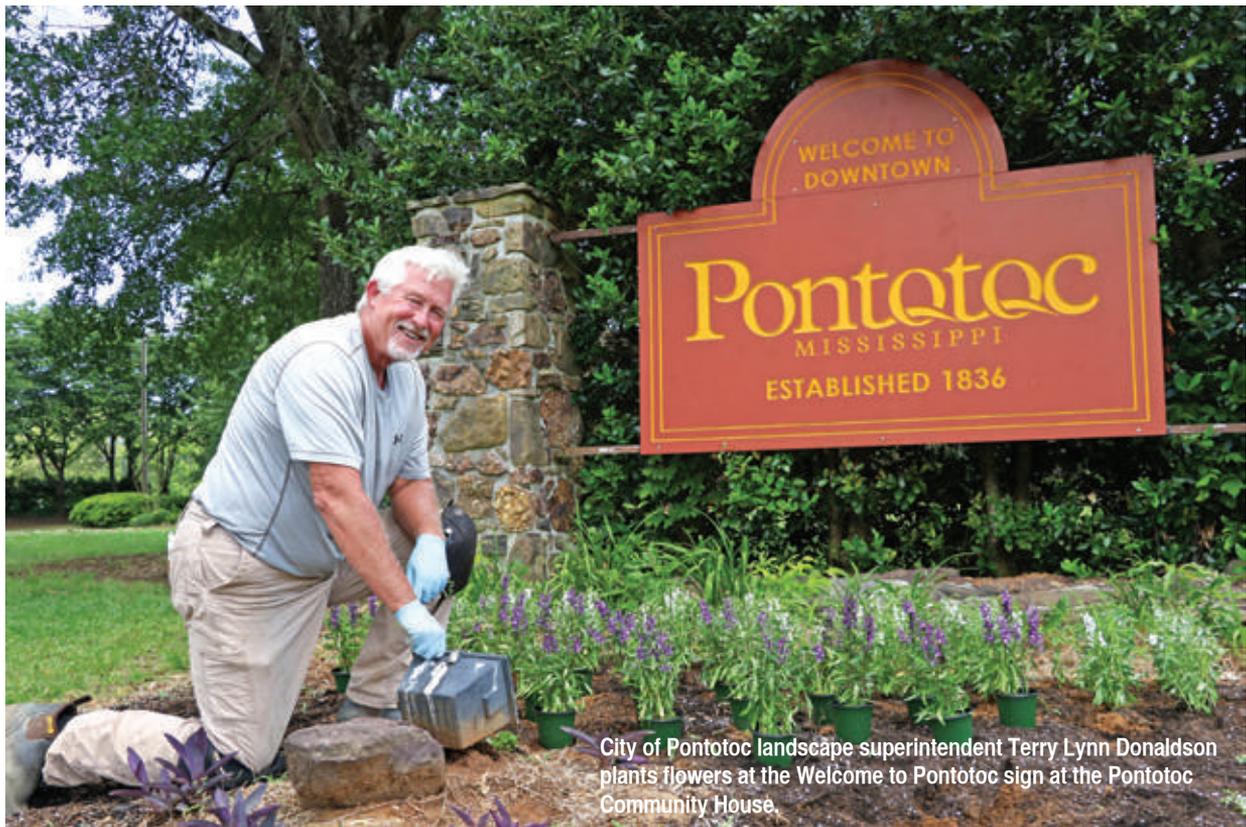
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Terry Lynn Donaldson

Keeping Pontotoc verdant, clean, and green



City of Pontotoc landscape superintendent Terry Lynn Donaldson plants flowers at the Welcome to Pontotoc sign at the Pontotoc Community House.

Story by **GALEN HOLLEY**

Photos by **DAVID HELMS**

A person doesn't have to look hard to find Terry Lynn Donaldson. He's the guy with the tan skin and the thick shock of white hair, usually riding a zero-turn-radius mower or toting a weed-eater around downtown Pontotoc.

He's everywhere.

"People call me Terry Lynn—that's what they know me by," said Donaldson, 59, the landscape superintendent and general fixer-upper around Pontotoc. "People see me out, and it's nice to be known by my first name, and to know people by their first names."

From mowing, to planting flower beds, to stringing up LED lights, and all manner of jobs in-between, Donaldson keeps the city

ship-shape, and he loves it.

"I like planting things and watching them grow, seeing my efforts beautify Pontotoc," said Donaldson. "Working outdoors and being part of the life of the city means a lot."

Donaldson worked as a golf course superintendent in Hernando, Pontotoc, and Oxford, so attention to detail is part of his working DNA. Today, he maintains the court square, as well as the grounds around the community house, the tennis courts, the pavilion on the Tanglefoot Trail, the First Choice Gateway trail stop, the Chamber of Commerce, six water treatment plants, two fire stations, and the signs coming into town.







He's a busy man.

Donaldson typically works five days a week, but it's not unusual to see him out on Saturday, or even Sunday afternoon, especially during the Bodock Festival or other outdoor goings-on.

Things have to look good, he said.

"The first impression folks get of our town is important," said Donaldson. "When the grounds look good and clean and well-maintained, it says we're proud of where we live."

Donaldson graduated Pontotoc High School in 1979. He played football and baseball and has remained athletic his whole life. When he's not working he officiates local football games, rides his bike, and jogs.

Sadly, it was while jogging in Pontotoc that Donaldson suffered the most severe injury of his life. On Oct. 11, 2017, Donaldson was preparing to run in the St. Jude Marathon. The blinding sun made it hard to see, and Donaldson was hit by a car while crossing the street. The impact broke his jaw, his wrist and his toe, and after being launched 15 feet into the air, landed on his head. He suffered brain bleeds, and while he's made a full recovery, to this day his balance still sometimes gets a little off.

"I remember what happened the day before the accident, but not the day of it," Donaldson said. "I didn't realize it was as bad as it was. My memory isn't what it used to be, but, I'll tell you, the power of prayer is tremendous. There must have been 100 people who came to see me and said they were praying for me. It's been a humbling experience, and it's reminded me of God's goodness, the love of neighbors, and the power of prayer."



Donaldson inspects one of the crepe myrtle bushes donated to the First Choice Bank Gateway by Pontotoc native Phil Cates.



Donaldson didn't stay down long. He's still a member of the Pontotoc Running Club, and bikes about 80 miles a week. When he's not exercising or working, he enjoys the company of his son and three grandchildren.

Pontotoc residents who love Donaldson and appreciate his work are about as hard to find as he is.

"Everybody knows Terry Lynn," said Pontotoc Mayor Bob Peoples. "He works tirelessly, and without complaint. He's approachable and helpful, and he's an important part of making Pontotoc such a great place."

Progress editor David Helms said Donaldson's beautification efforts have been a blessing.

"Terry Lynn has a God-given talent and love for growing plants and landscaping, but he's honed that talent through decades of hard work, digging in the ground, and working on his hands and knees," said Helms. "He has inspiration, but he's backed that up with hours-on-end of perspiration."

Donaldson has left an indelible mark on Pontotoc's landscape, Helms said.

"It's easy to see Terry Lynn's footprints on this earth, because he has grown beautiful grasses, flowers, trees, and scrubs everywhere he's been," said Helms. "He's graciously shared his knowledge, and he's helped a lot of coaches with their ball fields. Visitors drive through Pontotoc and say, 'Somebody here sure has a way with flowers and plants.'"

Donaldson loves Pontotoc, and the satisfaction he gets from keeping it beautiful is deeply personal.

"People walk in this town, they're friendly, and they wave, and the trail brings people in from everywhere," said Donaldson. "Pontotoc is a good place to raise a family--a good, Christian atmosphere. I'm working outside. I'm among friends and family. I'm doing what I love."





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| - Bahama Mama | - Pink Lemonade | - Margarita | Sugar-Free Flavors |
| - Dream Cycle | - Lemonade | - Polar Punch | - Orange |
| - Blue Cotton Candy | - Passion Fruit | - Strawberry Kiwi | - Grape |
| - Mango | - Strawberry Cheesecake | - Orchid Cream Vanilla | - Blue Raspberry |
| - Pink Bubble Gum | - Strawberry Banana | - Pomegranate Cranberry | - Watermelon |
| - Green Apple | - Cookie Dough | - Hurricane | - Cherry |
| - Orange | - Dill Pickle | - Fuzzy Navel | - Strawberry |

Ice Cream Flavors

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| - Lemon | - Rocky Road | - Birthday Cake | - Dough |
| - Sea Salt Caramel | - Butter Pecan | - Blue Monster | - Cookies N' Cream |
| - Strawberry Cheesecake | - Peachy Peach | - Chocolate | - Black Walnut |
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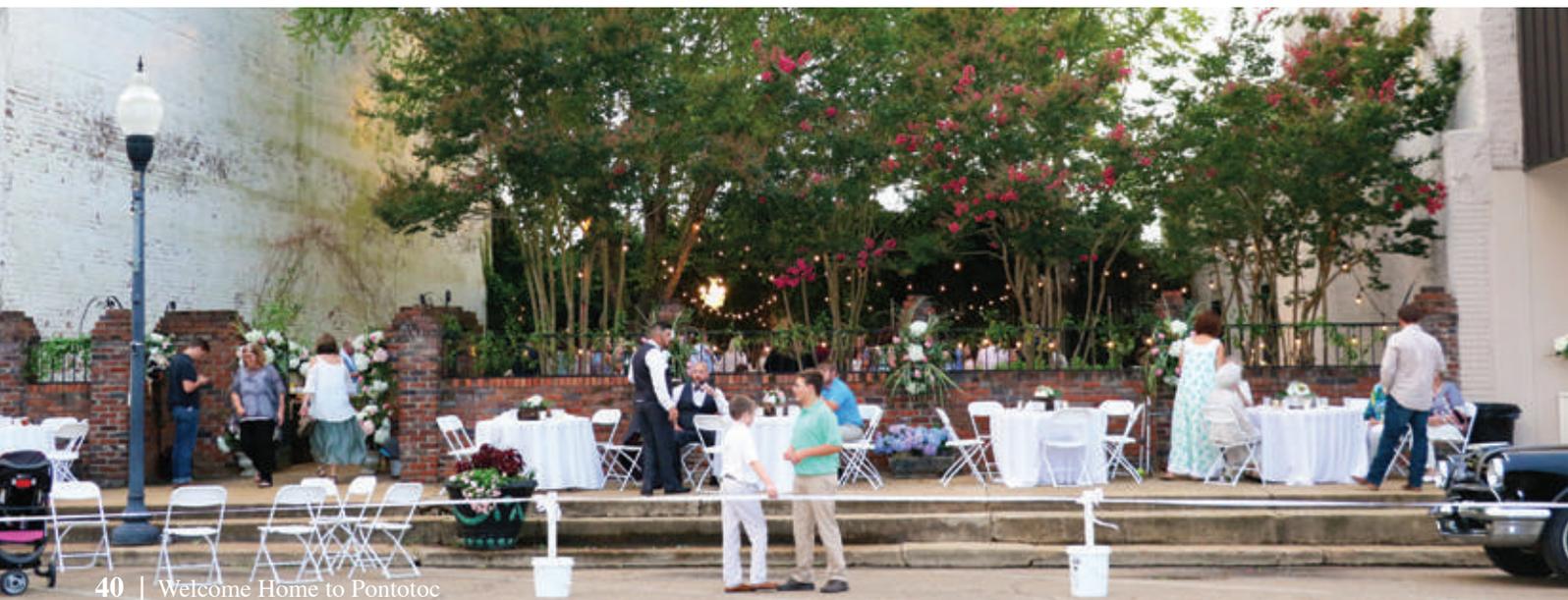


When it comes to visiting Pontotoc is a close knit community that welcomes all under their roof or small garden or the court square. Pontotoc has a number of places where folks can come and listen to music or just visit on a quiet afternoon. The First Choice Gateway at the Tanglefoot Trail offers a large pavilion for group gathering while the small sheltered spaces welcomes folks to sit in the shade and chat. Renasant Bank court offers a quaint cozy spot for a small wedding or little family reunion or just a place for you to enjoy the afternoon in the shade. The Pontotoc Court Square has long been the front porch of our county. The inviting picnic tables allow folks to unwind from a busy morning at the office or the swings let you while the day away any time of the year. From quiet little parks for small weddings to a large spacious cover to cater to the largest crowd Pontotoc has many places you can think outside the building for your day of memories.











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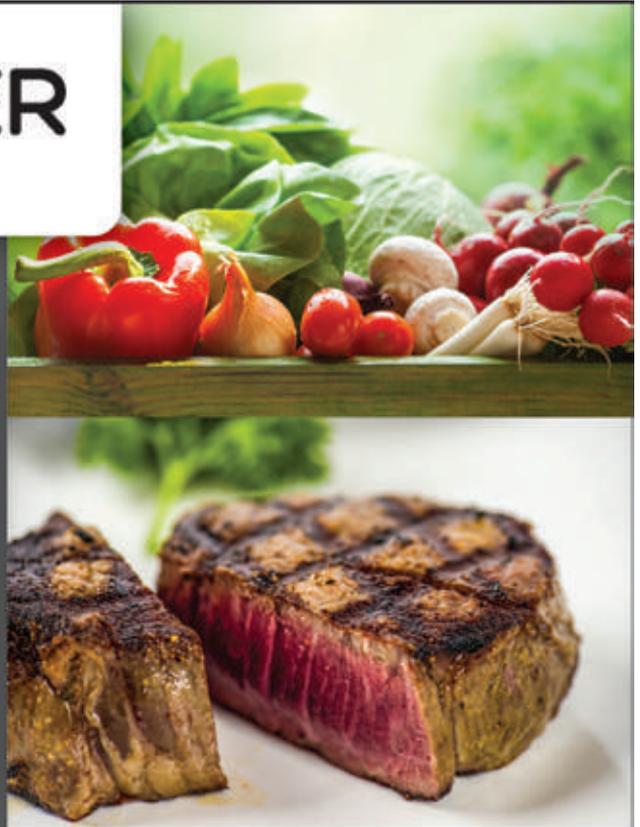
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Repeat's Encore Performer
Daniel Forman takes through a
training session at the South Wind
Stables' riding ring.



South Wind Stables

has
championship
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equine circles

Story by JONATHAN WISE

Photos Contributors: Galen Holley, Jennifer Barr, & Sid Abernathy



From the moment he first saw a gaited horse perform Daniel Forman knew it was something he wanted to do. Now many years later, Forman is a renowned trainer getting to make a living working with the animals he so admires.

“My dad was always a horseman,” Forman said. “He was into quarterhorses for years and years, and I was into quarterhorses. I went to a gaited saddle club show one night and saw the gaited horse, and I just fell in love with them. I started to going to all the gaited horse shows I could. When I got my driver’s license I started going to Tennessee to the big shows. Just watching and learning how they made horses perform and what kind of athletes they were, I wanted to be a part of that.”

He has been active in the show horse world since 1987. In February of 2003 Forman left a job in the furniture manufacturing industry and went to work for professional walking horse trainer Britt Huffstatler at the current South Wind Stables location. After working there several years, he bought the property bordering the Pontotoc Industrial Park from Huffstatler. His career has taken off

since then. South Wind Stables boards and trains horses on site. He has horses from owners in many states. Forman’s horses routinely win championships on the biggest stage. Gaited horses can perform three gaits- a slow walk, running walk and the canter. The horse shows are very family-oriented events.

As he gained experience Forman learned to train more effectively. In 2007 Forman captured his first world grand championship. Since then he has compiled a total of 77 world grand championship titles.

“God has blessed me,” Forman said.

The most accomplished horse in his barn is Repeat’s Encore Performer, who has won an impressive 33 world grand championships.

The 2019 National Spotted Saddle Horse Association’s (NSSHA) Fall Celebration in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the biggest show of its kind, shows the type of performance that South Wind Stables routinely produces. Forman rode Repeat’s Encore Performer to an Open Shod Canter Class World Grand Championship for the second consecutive year. That honor essentially puts him as the overall world champion.



Forman celebrates after winning the first of two straight world grand championships at the 2018 NSSHA Fall Celebration.



Pictured are Daniel Forman (at far right) along with (from left) son-in-law Earl Reeves, Repeat's Encore Performer owner Eddie Armstrong, wife Janie Forman, and grandson Riley Edmonds.

Pictured is Forman and Casanova's Secret Affair, who he won the Weanling Filly World Championship with last September.



Beyond Repeat Encore Performer's top honor, Forman rode several other world grand champions at last year's event. The Shakedown captured the Two-Year-Old Open Shod World Grand Championship. Mafia Boss won the Three-Year-Old Lite Shod Reserve World Grand Championship. This came a year after Mafia Boss won the championship in the Two-Year-Old Lite Shod division.

Forman led Casanova's Secret Affair to a Weanling Filly World Championship as well. Forman took home the Two-Year-Old Country Pleasure Open World Grand Championship with Remmes Perfect Hawk. Another horse he trained, I'm Smokin Hot, ridden by Fayth Driskill, won the 12-17 Juvenile World Grand Championship. Peppy Stormy Night, also ridden Fayth Driskill, won the Equitation World Grand Championship.

The Tennessee Walking Spotted Horse breed makes up the majority the horses he trains, but he trains racking horses as well.

"They (Tennessee Walking Horses) have always been my favorite," Forman said. "I like their temperament and the fact that they are easy to deal with. They are so athletic. It takes a special kind of athlete. You can take any saddle horse and ride him through the woods and mountains, but it takes a horse with a lot of want to and a lot of heart to do what we do."

It has been rewarding for Forman to have watched a number of the horses that were born at South Wind Stables progress in their training.

Getting a horse to the bright lights of competition is a long, multi-step process.

“They are just like any other athletes. You start them out slow and work up from there,” Forman said. “It is great to watch to them grow and mature. When they are four months old to start weaning them away from their mama, then go on to riding and finally to winning championships. It’s just like you have accomplished something yourself.

“We start riding them when they are around 15-16 months old very lightly. We work them in a round pen, do lots of ground work with them. We teach them their manners, left and right, stop. We let them know what they can and can’t do. I teach them what I expect of them and let them know what they can expect of me.”

From there the horses move to what is called the riding ring, which is like a show-grounds. The horses start being exercised and are taught the nuances of their craft.

“Not all of them make show horses,” Forman said. “Some of them don’t have the athletic ability to do it. The ones that do go on to compete and win championships.”

Running a professional horse training operation is an around the clock endeavor. Forman spends roughly an hour with a horse each day. In addition to riding and working, they are bathed every day, get their feet and legs massaged, and are fed twice a day. The personal interaction helps develop a rapport between the horses and himself. Forman also does all the farrier work at South Wind Stables himself.

“Because I have been around them so much, I can walk down the hall in the morning and tell you if they don’t feel good. I don’t even have to go in the stall with them,” Forman said. “I spent more time around them than I do my family. It’s just a love for the horses.”



Forman trained The Shakedown to a Two-Year-Old Open Shod World Grand Championship at last year’s NSSHA Fall Celebration.



Forman rides one of his accomplished horses, Mafia Boss, who won a World Grand Championship in a Three-Year-Old Lite Shod Reserve last September after winning one in Two-Year-Old Lite Shod the previous year.



Forman files down a hoof in preparation for a shoe reset.

A wall at South Wind Stables is filled with competition pictures of award-winning horses.



Daniel Forman readies a training device, designed to build muscle memory, before a recent training session, while grandson Riley Edmonds looks on.



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Algoma Mayor and Board of Aldermen include: Mayor Harry Neal Corder (seated) and at back from left are Tommy Caldwell, Marion 'Pete' Wilson, Noel McWhirter, Landis Fair and Sue Weeks.

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Pontotoc County AIRPORT

Pontotoc's runway to progress

Bailey McVay pulls a plane into the hanger at the Pontotoc Airport.



Story by **REGINA BUTLER**

Photos Contributors: Regina Butler, ESI, & Ted McVay

Like a giant bee droning across the sky, the sound of an airplane in rural areas causes many a young boy to run out and look up, wondering if one day he could soar in the heavens. “Flight is a pioneer heritage,” said Ted McVay, who is a second generation pilot and president of the Pontotoc County Airport Board. “For a long time planes were used for delivery of mail and groceries from one place to another and even banks used air delivery from town to town. This still takes place in remote areas.”

McVay’s dad, the late Jimmy McVay from Algoma was also a pilot, and his son, Bailey is also following in their footsteps.

“I always say I was born in an airplane because we had one all the time,” McVay joked. In fact, he flew model airplanes when he was a youngster in the field where the old airport was at one time. One of his heroes was Ladell Turner, “because he flew a crop duster. In 1995 I got to fulfill my dream and fly a crop duster.”

McVay said that flight is a forgotten part of our history from where aviation started; and where it is today.

In fact, Pontotoc has a long history of love for flight. In the book *From These Hills*, which records a history of Pontotoc, John Henry Anderson said a plane flew over Pontotoc in 1917, however, the first one to land in Pontotoc was in 1918. The plane was a two-seater, open top bi-plane called a ‘Jenny’. It was owned by the Curtis-Wright company of Memphis and landed in a cow pasture near town. The pilot took those of the town who sought adventure for a ride.



Ted McVay's son, Bailey, stands beside the plane that McVay learned to fly in.



Aerial view of the airport which is located on 43 acres off of Highway 336.



Bob Caldwell works on a plane. Caldwell has a shop at the airport which makes the local airport a plus for those who need an inspection or repairs.



Austin Taylor tapes windows before he prepares to apply caulking to seal the plane. Taylor, a local pilot, is employed by Bob Boland out of New Albany to fly him to his various businesses across the mid south.



Bailey cleans on parts that will go into an airplane.



Bailey McVay oils up a plane.

The first people in Pontotoc to own a plane were the Carruthers brothers in 1919. The love for flight took off, as it were, from that point with C.D. Lemons spearheading aviation in this community.

As with any fledgling flight; Pontotoc had its tragedies. In 1935 Dean Falkner of Oxford crashed this big cabin plane in an open field at Thaxton causing his death as well as the death of three Thaxton farmers, Henry Graham, Lemon Graham and Bud Warren.

But the years flew on and after World War II, Spook Field was established and served as the air traffic center for Pontotoc through the 1950s. With the coming of industrial expansion in the 1960s, the development association in Pontotoc sought the County Board of Supervisors to help with constructing what is now Pontotoc Airport. The airport was finished in February and dedicated March 24, 1966.

McVay said that the late Bing Crausby and his brother, Max, “were probably the two that were most instrumental in getting the airport established here.”

The Pontotoc County Airport is an unincorporated air field which services general aviation with a 3,000 foot runway that is 50 feet wide and has two aprons and a tarmac. And while no commercial flights may fly in and out, the airport is a vital connection for those learning to fly, as well as for the National Guard flight unit to train on. “In fact the guard is over here almost every weekend, and we have practice students that fly in and out.

“We don’t have an air traffic controller in the tower like the bigger airports do, we rely on the Unicom frequency, which means pilots radio out to see if anyone else is in the area and where they are,” McVay said.

“It is good for students who are just learning to fly because it takes them out of a flight controlled environment until they can figure out what they are doing.”

McVay said that general aviation is great because “you can climb in an airplane, fly to the coast, and be back in your bed at night. If you’ve never experienced it, you don’t understand the beauty of your town in day or night.

“Flying in a commercial plane is like riding a bus. I took my first commercial flight to California three years ago, I was terrified.” He laughed. “General aviation is not that. It is a freedom. When I was learning to fly, James Anderson had a plane. It was nothing for us to load up in his 172 Cessna and fly to the coast and eat and fly back home.”

Another boon for our airport is the fact that we have a fixed based operational mechanic. “Bob Caldwell has a shop right here and he has folks flying in and out of here for repairs.”

The Pontotoc County Airport board has three members who include McVay, Larry Lindsey and Rickey Simmons. “We still have two more places to fill on the board at the present time,” McVay noted.



Ted McVay always steps back to yesteryear when he sits in the seat of this plane because it is one like his family had when he was a youngster.

The board's job is to maintain the airport to FAA and aeronautical recommendations. "But we could not do what we do for the airport without the support of the supervisors," McVay emphasized. "We have a board that is extremely involved and that helps a lot."

But if you think that the airport is just a little spit of land with no use in Pontotoc, think again. "I get calls every day from people who want to put in a business here and the first thing they ask is if we have an airport. They don't ask what size it is; they just want to know if there is one here."

McVay said if a community grows you need an airport. "The biggest misconception about the flying field is that it is a waste of tax payers money.

"But this airport is self sustained, and it is adding to the general fund of the county. We get grant monies for upkeep and in the near future more improvements are coming.

"The airport generates \$25,000 a year in hanger rental and some \$6,000 to \$8,000 in fuel sales. We have an inspection once a year and all the Airport Improvement Program monies we get is based on take off and landings and the amount of fuel we sell. New hangers that were built and became operational in 2018 because of these monies and other grant monies, with another set soon to be built. If I had a hundred hangers, I could rent them out," McVay said.

One of the most important pieces of land in a disaster is the airport. "If you have a catastrophe, the airport is the first thing you clear, so there will be a place for light planes and helicopters to land."



Barret Hannah, Charles Richey and Max Crausby pose beside this 1929 Pietenpol aircraft. Max was the first maintenance supervisor for the airport.

It is also important to national security. "When President Trump came to Tupelo I had a call from the Secret Service because they have to know where all the airports are within the region the President is flying in to. That was an interesting conversation."

Austin Taylor who is a 26-year-old pilot from Pontotoc utilizes the airport to store and do routine maintenance on the company plane he flies.

"My boss, Bob Boland of New Albany, has a business here in North Mississippi and in Arkansas and I fly him out there. It takes 4 and half hours to drive and one hour to fly."

Taylor said flying was always a dream of his ever since "I was a little kid. My first solo was he most exciting feeling I ever had."

And he has learned that a plane requires more maintenance than a car. Wind resistance tears at every crack and cranny of the machine.

"You have to make sure everything is tight and windows are caulked properly and go over every bit of it," he said.

And he enjoys the freedom of the air on a small plane as well. "I like flying into Destin, Florida, it's the coolest place to fly in to."

Taylor said he appreciates having a small airport to store the plane and a place to do the routine maintenance on the aircraft between flights.

McVay said he believes the future of the Pontotoc Airport is bright.

"We are constantly improving and this small airport will continue help people who want to learn the love and freedom of flight."



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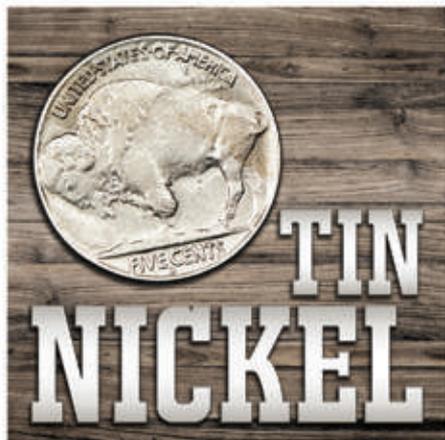


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Banded Together

Husband and wife share a lifetime of musical education

Striking up the band is nothing new to South Pontotoc High School band directors Vance and Dale Wigginton. The husband and wife team have been teaching band together for 34 years.



Story by **GALEN HOLLEY**
Photos by **DAVID HELMS**

Vance Wigginton and his wife, Dale, each have unique, musical talents – a duet, if you will – but after 34 years of teaching band together, they’ve come to think of themselves simply as a solo.

“We’re rarely spoken of as separate entities,” said Vance, the band director at South Pontotoc High School. While he’s getting the brass and percussion sections in sync, Dale is usually directing the color guard.

“We’re very fortunate, we’ve gotten to do pretty much everything band directors can do, and we’ve done it together,” said Dale, who came to SPH in 2010. Vance joined her after a five-year stint as director at Pontotoc High School.

“We’re a pair – we’ve taken this journey as one,” said Vance.

The Wiggintons met as music majors at Delta State University. Vance is from Tishomingo County and Dale grew up in Ruleville. They dated throughout college and married in 1986. Vance and Dale were a perfect match—both in matrimony as well as in their careers.

“There was a big need at band camps for both our specialties,” said Vance. “We started our own business, made flyers, and before long we were traveling all over to teach camps.”

One summer they worked 11 camps.

The couple taught at high schools throughout Mississippi, including seven years in Boonville, nine years in Vicksburg, and six years in Tupelo, as well as a year in Texas. They directed the Tupelo band to a state championship in 2006.

The Wiggintons also directed the prestigious Lions All-State Band on two occasions, in 1998 and again in 2005, engagements that took them and their students to London and Hong Kong. In 2007, the Wiggintons were jointly awarded Mississippi's Outstanding Band Director of the Year by the international fraternity Phi Beta Mu.

"We've been privileged to be part of several special groups, and we've enjoyed every moment," Dale said.

Today the Wiggintons have two children, ages 9 and 12, and South Pontotoc is the perfect fit for their family, they said.

Students spoke lovingly of "Mr. and Mrs. Wig."
"They're some of the best people I've met in my life," said 2020 SPH senior Lathe Ward, who this year assisted the Wiggintons with technical issues and played trombone. He was their student since the sixth grade. "They do everything they can to ensure band students have the best experience," said Ward. "For the Wiggintons, trophies are much less important than fostering effort and commitment from students, and creating lifetime memories."

The Wiggintons know that working with band students has been their life's calling.



Last year under the direction of the Wiggintons, the South Pontotoc Band was named Grand Champion at the North Mississippi Marching Band Championships at NEMCC. The Cougar Band Color Guard won the state 4A championship and the band received All Superior ratings at the State Band Festival.



“The great thing is that we usually get to work with these kids for six years,” said Vance. “In band, you never have to sit on the bench. It doesn’t matter how fast you can run, or high you can jump. If you’re willing to put forth the effort, there’s a place for you.”





At the summer's first band practice drum majors Emily Lopez and Alexis Tryon discuss plans with band directors Vance (bottom photo) and Dale Wigginton.



“The great thing is that we usually get to work with these kids for six years,” said Vance. “In band, you never have to sit on the bench. It doesn’t matter how fast you can run, or high you can jump. If you’re willing to put forth the effort, there’s a place for you.”

The couple see themselves as mentors, in music and in life.

“We provide a stable foundation for kids as they grow and mature,” said Dale. “It’s important for kids to have an empathetic and responsible adult, both to foster their creativity and to provide a calming presence. It’s centered on a work ethic, and that transfers into life. Mental attitude and hard work are much more important than physical ability. Band is unique in that sense. All are welcome and all can participate and succeed. We’re blessed and privileged to be part of that maturation process.”

Martin Rodgers is an English teacher at SPH. His son, Andrew, was a band member and graduated in 2019. Rodgers’ daughter, Rebecca, also plays in the band, and will graduate next year.

“The Wiggintons are the best of the best, they’re legends,” said Rodgers, a former member of the Pontotoc Warrior Band, who today helps with Cougar Band activities. “They’ve been successful everywhere they’ve taught, and they’re still humble and down-to-earth people. They have high expectations, and they’re masterful at encouraging students to achieve. That speaks to what great teachers they are, both in music and in life.”

Vance and Dale said they’ll keep teaching until they feel it’s time to step aside.

“We love what we do, and things are going wonderfully, but if the time comes when we feel we’ve stagnated, or not performing at the same level, and it becomes tiresome, we’ll gladly make room,” said Vance. “The quality of the program, and the students’ experiences are the most important things. We both feel strongly about that.”

Dale agreed, and said she and her husband still feel good, and vibrant, and have a lifetime of experience they’re excited to offer.

“Teaching band has done us at least as much good as it’s done the students,” said Dale. “Music, and band, express who a person is on a deep level. Through music, and teaching, and most importantly, through students, we’ve learned that band teachers are just who we are.”

"Mr. Wig" shares a laugh with squad leaders.



"Mrs. Wig" poses with Color Guard members Kendall Harrington, Aster Whitt, Morgan Spears and Sarah Milner.



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Rooted in *Love*

Jacob and Olivia White plant a life in Pontotoc soil

Story by **GALEN HOLLEY**

Photos Contributors: Galen Holley, David Helms, & Gayle White

Jacob White approaches farming with all the faith and humility you'd expect from a hardworking man from Pontotoc County.

"You work from can-until-can't, and know that you're not really in control of anything—God is," said White, 24, who works 820 acres in Pontotoc County.

White's acreage is situated off Pear Tree Road, near Miller Creek, and reaches eastward to near the Lee County line. Even by Pontotoc standard, it is a modest farm. This year he planted 370 acres of cotton, 220 acres of field corn, and 170 acres of soybeans. Row-crops are one thing, but produce requires a special touch. White loves the hands-on work of plating, hoeing, spraying, and picking. He even loves shelling peas.

"That's how I got started when I was a kid—raising peas, cantaloupes, and garden vegetables around the house," White said.

The satisfaction of watching things grow was payment enough, White said. He gave most of his produce away. Farming truck-patch vegetables brought the handsome, dusty boy together

with his future wife.

"He used to sell watermelons outside the beauty shop on Longview Road, and I'd go with mama and grandmamma and see him," said Olivia White, an occupational therapist, and Jacob 's lovely bride of six months. "We laugh and say we've known each other all our lives, since we were kids. It's true, really."

Even in their youthful vitality, the Whites seem like a throwback to days-gone-by. They're earnest, dedicated, and humble. The Whites love their land, and feel connected to it.

"The harder you work, the more it pays off," said White. "I could get an hourly job, be a mechanic, or plumber, but this is what I love."

Under the guidance and encouragement of his uncle, farmer Mike Bowen, White increased his acreage as he gained experience. He was a fast learner.

"Four acres grew into 820 acres in six years," White said. "I'd add a piece of equipment here and there, and rent a little more land."

Today White works with three John Deere tractors, a four-row cotton picker, a sprayer, and few other implements.

“He used to sell watermelons outside the beauty shop on Longview Road, and I’d go with mama and grandmamma and see him,” said Olivia White, an occupational therapist, and Jacob’s lovely bride of six months. “We laugh and say we’ve known each other all our lives, since we were kids.”





Jacob and Olivia both graduated from Pontotoc High School. They dated for seven years before marrying. From the beginning, growing a farm and sowing the seeds for their future was a journey they took together.

"I've never had a job other than farming," said Jacob, laughing. "She knew that if she was going to stay with me that was how it would be."

On the day Jacob proposed to Olivia, she'd come to have a look at the cotton, as she often did. He'd carved his proposal into a tree at her favorite observation spot.

"I was pretty dirty from the field when I proposed to her," Jacob said.

Farming is a risky financial undertaking, but the Whites were resolved to make it work.





Jacob White eases the tractor along as workers feed sweet potato slips into the planter.





“He’s better than I am at dealing with the anxiety and uncertainty,” said Olivia. “We do as much as we can, and pray things fall into place. It’s humbling.”

White could farm on a bigger scale. He could cut out vegetables and raise three times as many row-crops, but that would take the enjoyment out of it, he said. Olivia agreed.

“It means something to plant things, watch them grow, and know where the food you’re eating comes from,” she said.

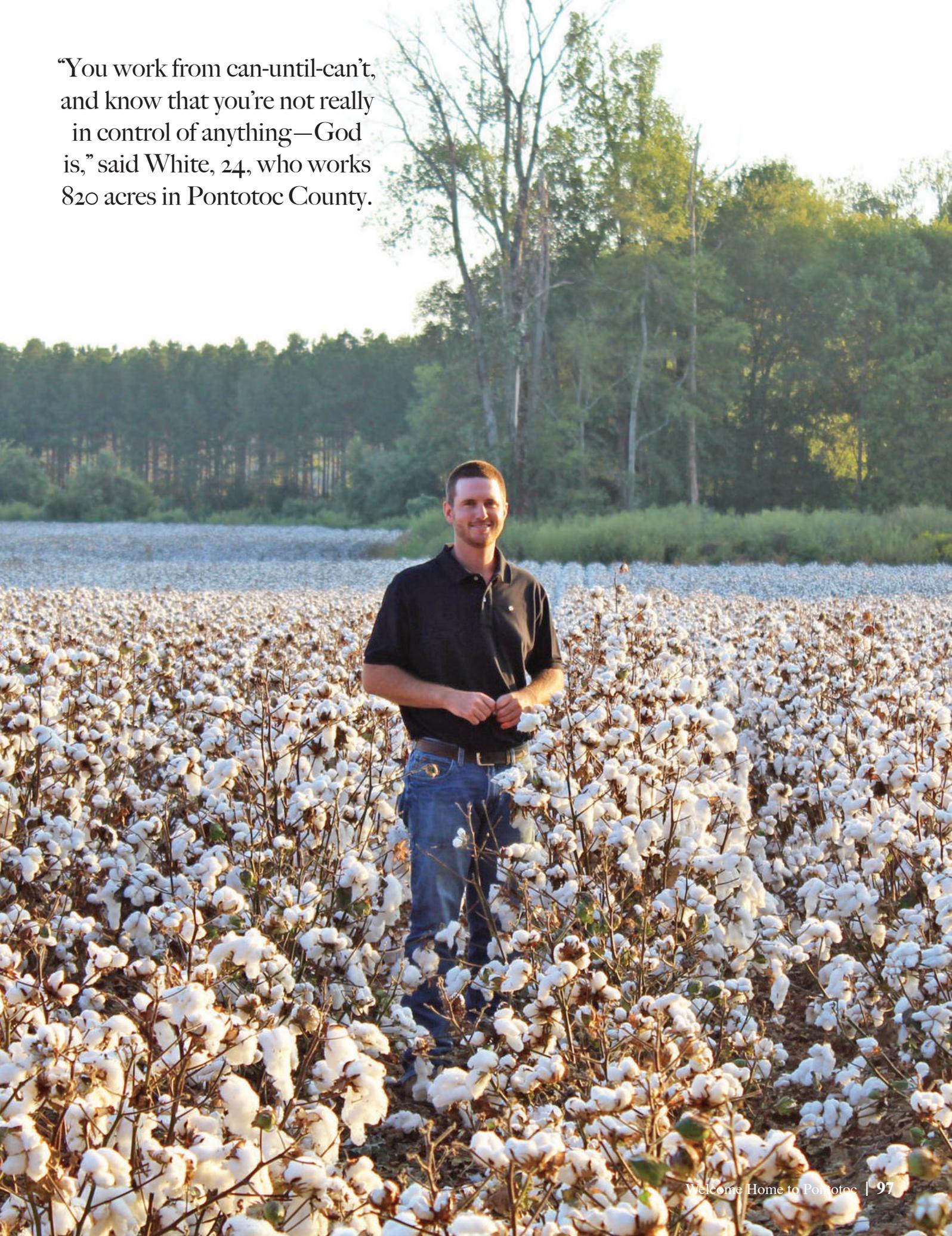
Farming is also time-consuming.

“Once you get a crop in the ground, it’s a sprint to the end,” said White. “There’s always something to do. If it’s raining, you work on equipment. If you run out of things to do, you spray cotton.”

When this year’s sprint is over, the Whites may take a breather.

“Once everything’s in, we get to slow down,” White said. “We might miss out on trips to the lake with friends while we’re farming, but after harvesting, we might take a couple weeks off. We’re doing what we want to do. We wouldn’t have it any other way.”

“You work from can-until-can’t, and know that you’re not really in control of anything—God is,” said White, 24, who works 820 acres in Pontotoc County.



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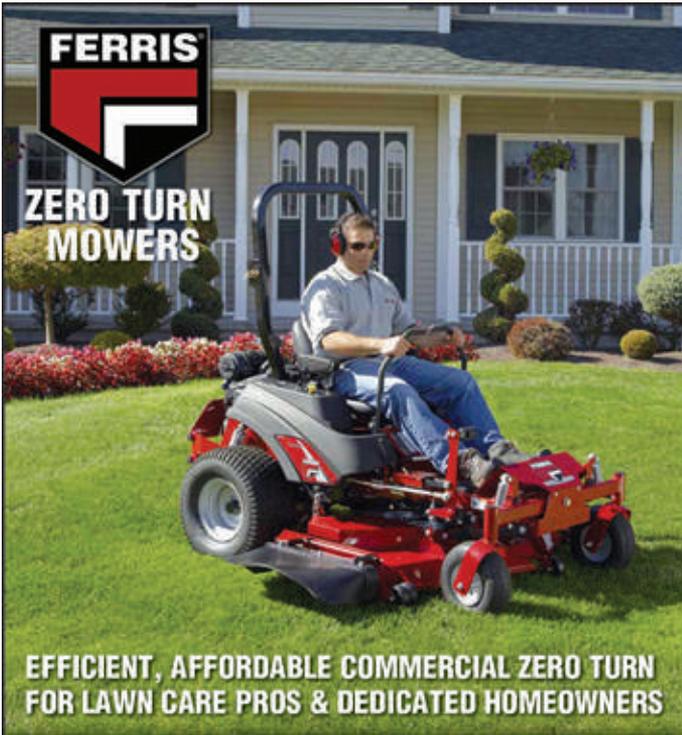












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Pontotoc Electric Power Association services almost 18,500 members in six counties, which includes most of Pontotoc County. The main office is located at 12 South Main Street, Pontotoc. Call 489-3211. For emergencies on nights, weekends and holidays, Call 489-6711.

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GARBAGE PICKUP

Garbage is picked up once a week door-to-door. To find out when your garbage day is or ask questions about your bills, call 489-3913.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, Call 911

FIRE COORDINATOR: 489-3111

The Pontotoc County Fire Coordinator works with more than 200 volunteers who give their time in 12 community fire departments across Pontotoc County.

SHERIFF'S DEPART.: 489-3915

Pontotoc County Sheriff's Department employs 17 full-time officers, 12 jailers and two school resource officers. To reach the jail, you may call 489-3915, 489-3165 and 489-3182.

In case of a storm or tornado, the county has shelters in almost every community

- Algoma - 2 shelters: Both at 1310 Algoma Road
- Ecu - 7 shelters: Five at 176 Main Street; Two at the park on Central Avenue
- Sherman - 7 shelters: 161 6th Ave.; 9 East Lamar Street; 600 Highway 178; 1041 Cr. 292; 213 First Avenue; 49 E. State Street; 26 West Lamar Street
- Thaxton - 4 shelters: 2 at 10260 Highway 336; 10632 Highway 336; 10489 Highway 336 (Thaxton Baptist Church)
- Toccopola - 2 shelters: Both located near the fire department at 3100 Toccopola Jct. Rd.
- Turnpike Community - 1 shelter: 370 Cane Creek North (Turnpike Baptist Church)
- Beckham - 1 shelter: 414 Beckham Road
- Hurricane - 1 shelter: 7600 Highway 346
- Longview - 1 shelter: 3497 Longview Road
- Randolph - 3 shelters: Two are located at 240 Topsy Road; one at 11800 Hwy. 9 South (Carey Springs Baptist Church)
- Troy/Woodland - 2 shelters: 175 Rock Hill Road, 3601 Woodland Road

For storm alert information, visit www.alertfm.net/ms/pontotoc. To be alerted of a storm in your community by phone sign up at www.trpdd.com/codered. This is at no cost to you.

Official Contacts

CITY OF PONTOTOC

Mayor Bob Peeples,
Office in city hall, (662) 489-4321

ALDERMEN

Lena Chewe, ward one - (662) 489-5374
Tommy Patterson, ward two - (662) 489-7018
D. R. Simmons, ward three - (662) 419-1903
Rayburn Mapp, ward four - (662) 489-2631
David White at-large - (662) 419-0107

How to call: (662) 489-4321

The Pontotoc City Board of Aldermen meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

PONTOTOC COUNTY

Chancery Clerk's Office – (662) 489-3900
Ricky Ferguson

The chancery court clerk handles documentation on divorces, property line disputes, adoptions and youth court.

Circuit Clerk's Office – (662) 489-3908
Melinda Nowicki

The circuit clerk handles documentation on marriages, voter registration, criminal and civil cases and notary public.

Tax Assessor/Collector – (662) 489-3904
Van McWhirter

SUPERVISORS

District 1: Wayne Stokes - (662) 488-5228
District 2: Mike McGregor - (662) 419-5685
District 3: Brad Ward - (662) 419-0497
District 4: Ernie Wright - (662) 419-5245
District 5: Dan McKnight - (662) 419-2277

The supervisors oversee the budget for the entire county, make decisions on improvements county-wide including buildings, fire protection and emergency management.

They also see that roads and bridges are repaired.

The Pontotoc County Supervisors meet the first Monday of the month, the 15th of the month and the last day of the month at 10 a.m. If the 15th or the last day falls on the weekend, the board meets on the Friday before.

MUNICIPALITIES

ALGOMA - Mayor Harry Corder,
(662) 489-5696 Board meets first Tuesday, 7 p.m.

ECRU - Mayor Jeff Smith,
(662) 489-3881 Board meets first Tuesday, 6 p.m.

SHERMAN - Mayor Mike Swords,
(662) 840-9185 Board meets first Tuesday, 6 p.m.

THAXTON - Mayor Johnny Coleman,
(662) 419-2665 Board meets first Tuesday, 7 p.m.

TOCCOPOLA - Mayor Nick Brewer II,
(662) 489-6122 Board meets first Tuesday, 7 p.m.

JUSTICE COURT JUDGES

East District: David A. Hall -
(662) 489-3921

West District: Scottie Harrison -
(662) 489-3921

Justice court judges set bonds on all county crimes, and hear cases that aren't heard by the circuit court judges.

CONSTABLES

East District: Neal Davis
West District: L. D. Gillespie

Constables are responsible for serving court papers and helping to keep the peace in their district. Contact them at Justice Court, 489-3921.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Airport – (662) 489-3900
Extension Office – (662) 489-3910
Library – (662) 489-3960
Veteran's Office – (662) 489-3907
Youth Court Service – (662) 489-3936
Agri-Center – (662) 489-3946

STATE OFFICIALS

Governor Tate Reeves, (877) 405-0733

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Mac Huddleston
District 15 - Pontotoc County
P.O. Drawer 300, Pontotoc, MS 38863
(662) 489-5157
E-mail: mhuddleston@house.ms.gov

Sam J. Creekmore IV
District 14 - Pontotoc, Union Counties
1315 Central Avenue, New Albany, MS 38652
(662) 534-9280
E-mail: screekmore@house.ms.gov

Jon Lancaster
District 22 - Pontotoc, Calhoun, Chickasaw,
P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215
(662) 631-5065
E-mail: jlancaster@house.ms.gov

STATE SENATOR

Kathy Chism - District 3 - Pontotoc, Union,
Calhoun, P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215
(662) 359-4088
E-mail: kchism@senate.ms.gov

Benjamin Suber - District 8
P.O. Box 8, Bruce, MS 38915
(662) 983-3000
E-mail: bsuber@senate.ms.gov

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
U.S. Senate, 702 Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5054

In Mississippi:
2012 15th Street, Suite 451
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501
Phone: (228) 867-9710
E-mail: senator@smith.senate.gov
Website: www.hydesmith.senate.gov

Senator Roger F. Wicker
555 Dirksen, Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6253

In Mississippi:
P.O. Box 1482
Tupelo, MS 38802
Phone: (662) 844-5010
Phone: (601) 965-4644
Web site: www.wicker.senate.gov

Congressman First District Trent Kelly
1005 Longworth, House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4306

In Mississippi:
431 West Main Street, Ste. 450
Tupelo, MS 38804
Phone: (662) 841-8808

Clubs & Organizations

Please call the contact person for more information.

CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Martha Jo Coleman - 308-1219

CIVITAN CLUB
George Stegall - 419-2727

CONCERNED CITIZENS
David & Phyllis High - 489-5319

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB
Joyce Odom - 489-4365

FINE ARTS CLUB
Laney Sims - 489-8784

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
Phyllis High - 489-5319

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Rhonda Rodgers - 419-0948

MASTER GARDENERS
James Shannon - 489-3910

OPEN GATE GARDEN CLUB
Millicent Seawright - 488-1576

PONTOTOC 4-H CLUB
Jane Chamblee - 489-3910

PONTOTOC AMERICAN LEGION, POST #16
Jack Savely - 419-5995

PONTOTOC ARTISTS GUILD
Dr. Lee Waltress - 509-2091

PONTOTOC COMMUNITY THEATER
Jennifer Wright - 760-9125

PONTOTOC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Martha Jo Coleman - 308-1219

PONTOTOC HOMEMAKERS
Linda Smith - 489-3910

PONTOTOC MUSIC STUDY CLUB
Marchell Gates - 419-5250

PONTOTOC ROTARY
Mack Huey - 489-3907

PONTOTOC VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
Tracey Robertson - 419-3823

PONTOTOC WOMAN'S CLUB
Jenae Weeks - 488-1355

TALE-TELLERS
B. T. Simms Senior Bldg. - 489-6557

TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB
Sadie Kenny - 687-1956

HOW WE GIVE BACK

Pontotoc County residents give of their time and talents to charitable organizations local and nationwide; to clubs and any local benefit, giving hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to help those in need. These organizations give folks an opportunity to give from Pontotoc to all points of the globe.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Pontotoc Habitat for Humanity has built scores of homes in Pontotoc for those who need affordable housing. Volunteers from all walks of life come together to hammer and saw a house into a future home for a needy family. Call 488-9090 for more information or to volunteer.

PONTOTOC FOOD DEPOT

Through the Pontotoc Food Depot, those who wish to receive food on a monthly basis sign up the first Saturday of each month at the food depot office from 8-10 a.m. The office is located at the corner of Marion and Liberty Streets beside Cornelieson Law Office. Those who are signed up collect their food on the third Saturday.

PONTOTOC FOOD PANTRY

When your house is destroyed by fire or a sudden job loss occurs, the Pontotoc County Food Pantry is there to supply the immediate need. The organization helps to supply food to an average of 30-50 families a month and is open from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is located on Reynolds Street. Call 489-5042 for more information.

SALVATION ARMY

When disaster strikes in any form, the Salvation Army is there to give hope and help. A thrift store is open to aid people in the community. Volunteers also ring the bell at Christmas to collect monies in the red kettle. Call 509-9400 for more information.

FEEDING OF THE 5,000

A week before Thanksgiving churches from across the county come together to pack a meal for the home bound and elderly. The list and man power comes from the different county churches. They come together at First Baptist Church because it is in the center of the county. This even begins being organized by early October each year. If your church wants to participate please call First Baptist at 489-1346.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Churches across Pontotoc participate in bringing brighter smiles to children all over the world by packing shoe boxes and sending them to Samaritan's Purse to be distributed by boat, mule, bike, trike and any other means to give hope to a child in need. Call West Heights Baptist Church at 489-1200.

HAMMERS OF HOPE

Hammers of Hope repairs & rebuilds homes of those in need whether affected by natural disaster or life circumstances while sharing the love of Christ. Born out of a desire to help people here at home whose homes need repair, Jeff and Kim Cooper along with volunteers make their hands busy helping those in need. 501-3c organization please contact them at 662-871-1605 or go to hammersofhopems.org. Faithful Servants Working 'Til Jesus Returns! Hebrews 3:1-6

Houses of Prayer

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

2448 Hwy. 15 North
662-489-0209

BAPTIST

ALGOMA BAPTIST

Hwy. 124 W., Algoma
662-489-5846

ANTIOCH FREEWILL BAPTIST

Toccopola, MS
662-242-0379, 662-801-8815

BEECH SPRINGS FREEWILL BAPTIST

Beech Springs Rd., Ecru
662-844-0792

BELLEVUE BAPTIST

Hwy. 6 West, Thaxton, MS
662-509-9235

BETHANY PRIMITIVE BAPTIST

4905 Hwy. 346
662-489-0222

BETHEL MB

2905 Hwy. 342
662-509-9924

BETHLEHEM FREEWILL BAPTIST

115 Bethlehem Lane
662-489-6848

BUCHANAN BAPTIST

4815 Friendship Rd.
662-489-3405

BY FAITH BAPTIST

2220 Hwy. 15 N.
662-489-7701

CAIRO BAPTIST

2610 Cairo Rd., Ecru
662-266-4359

CAREY SPRINGS BAPTIST

Hwy. 9 SW
662-489-1265

CENTER HILL BAPTIST

591 Brassfield Rd.
Pontotoc

CHERRY CREEK BAPTIST

Cherry Creek
662-489-6002

CHERRY CREEK MB

Cherry Creek Rd.
662-489-7009

COOKE MEMORIAL BAPTIST

5962 Redland-Sarepta Road
Houlka, MS 38850

COUNTY LINE BAPTIST

14616 Hwy 9 S., Randolph
662-489-7363

DISCOVERY CHURCH

3950 Hwy. 336, Pontotoc
www.discoverychurchms.com

EAST BAPTIST

329 Clark St.
662-489-7151

ECRU BAPTIST

550 Main St., Ecru
662-489-3091

ECRU SECOND BAPTIST

Ecru,
662-489-5361

FIRST BAPTIST

31 E. Washington St.
662-489-1346

FIRST BAPTIST OF TROY

145 Rockhill Rd.
662-489-4624

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST

Country Road 134
662-489-7070

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST

85 Friendship Road, Ecru
662-489-4056

FURRS BAPTIST

9011 Hwy. 6 E.
662-840-1705

GERSHORM BAPTIST

240 Baptist Bend, Houlka
662-488-4033

GREEN VALLEY BAPTIST

265 Old Airport Rd. S.
662-489-6047

HARMONY BAPTIST

3534 Hwy. 345
662-489-1070

HEBRON BAPTIST

71 Hebron Rd., Randolph
662-489-6103

HOPEWELL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST

Robbs Road, Randolph
662-844-9633

HORTON MEMORIAL BAPTIST

2120 Hwy. 346, Pontotoc

HURRICANE BAPTIST

7975 Hwy. 346
662-489-1481

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

2681 Rowland Road
662-489-4832

IN GOOD FAITH BAPTIST

685 Rocky Ford Rd.
662-489-7161

LEE MEMORIAL BAPTIST

208 Lana St., 662-489-7285

LIBERTY BAPTIST

7974 Hwy. 341
662-489-1943

LOCUST HILL BAPTIST

1745 Locust Hill Road

LONGVIEW BAPTIST

406 Dozier Hill Road, Belden
662-489-5733

MACEDONIA BAPTIST

3996 Macedonia Rd., Houlka

McGREGOR'S CHAPEL

FW BAPTIST CHURCH
Hwy. 6 West, Pontotoc, MS

MIDWAY BAPTIST

8773 Hwy. 15 S.
662-489-5664

NEW LIFE FREEWILL BAPTIST

4449 Wallfield Road, Houlka,
568-2072

NEW RESIDENT BAPTIST

996 Floyd Rd.
662-488-8843

NEW SALEM MB

Hwy. 6 E., 662-489-8791

OAK DALE BAPTIST

7230 Hwy. 346
Pontotoc, MS 38863

OAK HILL BAPTIST

5830 Hwy. 9 N.
662-489-1897

GREATEST MISSION BAPTIST

125 Old Airport Rd., Pontotoc
419-1797

PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Piney Grove Road
662-489-5825

PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

507 S. Gilmer Road, Pontotoc

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy 32, Pontotoc
662-509-9160

PLEASANT GROVE FREEWILL BAPTIST

7705 Hwy. 336, Thaxton
662-488-6042

PLEASANT GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Hwy. 41 &
Pleasant Grove Rd., Pontotoc
662-489-8784

RANDOLPH BAPTIST

Topsy Road, Randolph
489-4992

SCHOONA CHAPEL BAPTIST

Hwy. 341, Pontotoc

SAREPTA BAPTIST

Randolph, 662-414-7451

SECOND BAPTIST

189 N. College St.
662-489-1274

SELAH BAPTIST

5720 Hwy. 15 N.
662-488-8242

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST

1000 Shady Grove Baptist
662-489-7842

SHERMAN GROVE BAPTIST

209 First Ave., Sherman
662-372-2661

SPRINGVILLE BAPTIST

64 S. Pontotoc Rd.
662-488-0013

SPRINGVILLE CHAPEL MB

1870 Palestine Rd.
662-509-9511

ST. PAUL BAPTIST

360 Cairo Loop
662-489-8417

THAXTON BAPTIST

10507 Hwy. 336, Thaxton
662-489-8534

THE ANCHOR BAPTIST

4495 Hwy. 9 North, Pontotoc
662-489-9241

THE VINE BAPTIST

125 Old Airport Rd., S. Pontotoc
662-401-2218

Sunday mornings mean the sound of hymns in the air and wriggling children impatiently waiting on the final ‘Amen’ so they can go to Grandmas. But the church is more than just the four walls and the doors that hold the people who come together to worship, it is the hands and feet that do thousands of hours of volunteer work throughout the community to help those less fortunate or to raise money to send missionaries to the far flung field to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a warm hand shake, an understanding tear, and a friend that sticks closer than a brother. With all the houses available that holds God’s church within Pontotoc County it won’t take long to find that one that will be near and dear to your heart. -Regina Butler

TOCCOPOLA BAPTIST

P. O. Box 304
489-7504

TOXISH BAPTIST

1841 Toxish Rd.
662-489-5839

TROY BAPTIST

8272 Hwy. 41
662-489-5770

TURNPIKE BAPTIST

Cane Creek Rd. - Pontotoc
489-1923

VALLEY GROVE BAPTIST

3282 Kings Hwy., Tupelo
662-419-0801

WATCHMEN BAPTIST

13013 Hwy. 336
662-489-5560

VICTORY BAPTIST

382 South Main Street
662-489-5900

WEST HEIGHTS BAPTIST

328 W. Oxford St.
662-489-1200

**WILSON CHAPEL
BAPTIST CHURCH**

P. O. Box 906
Pontotoc, MS

WOODLAND BAPTIST

1257 Pontocola Rd.
662-489-9391

ZION BAPTIST

459 Valley Rd.
662-489-2196

CATHOLIC

**ST. CHRISTOPHER
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

431 Pineridge Dr., Pontotoc
662-489-7749

CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUCKHORN CHURCH OF CHRIST

13675 Hwy. 341, Randolph
662-308-1229

CHURCH OF CHRIST

276 Hwy. 15 Bypass
662-489-5020

CHURCH OF CHRIST

369 Church St., 662-489-1136

RANDOLPH CHURCH OF CHRIST

Corner of Topsy Rd.
& Indian Creek Tr.

**SHERMAN CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

2303 St. Hwy. 178 E., Sherman,
662-844-4593

**JEHOVAH'S
WITNESSES**

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S

112 Old Airport Rd.
662-489-7815

METHODIST

ALGOMA UNITED METHODIST

1161 Algoma Road, Pontotoc
662-709-0580

**BEULAH GROVE UNITED
METHODIST**

Beulah Grove Rd.
662-844-6021

**EBENEZER UNITED
METHODIST**

1411 Hwy. 342, Pontotoc
662-760-3499

ECRU UNITED METHODIST

Church Street
Ecrú, MS

FAIRVIEW METHODIST

Hwy. 341
662-489-6979

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

68 S. Main St.
662-489-3076

**MCDONALD UNITED
METHODIST**

194 College Street
662-489-1020

**MOUNT NEBO UNITED
METHODIST**

1221 Campground Rd.
662-489-7020

NAYLOR CME

326 Clark St.
662-489-6082

**PALESTINE
UNITED METHODIST**

2181 Palestine Road, Pontotoc
662-709-0580

**PLEASANT GROVE
UNITED METHODIST**

205 Martin Lane
662-489-2087

**THAXTON
UNITED METHODIST**

10326 Hwy. 336, Thaxton
488-8178

**UNION GROVE
UNITED METHODIST**

Beulah Grove Rd.
662-844-6021

**USHER VALLEY UNITED
METHODIST**

754 Moorman Rd.
662-489-8020

PENTECOSTAL

**BLACK ZION
PENTECOSTAL**

Hwy. 342
662-489-0068

**LIGHTHOUSE APOSTOLIC
CHURCH**

233 White Gold, Pontotoc
662-419-7271

**THAXTON UNITED
PENTECOSTAL**

265 Wells Road
662-419-2993

**WEST PONTOTOC
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

266 Hwy. 341 S., Pontotoc
662-489-6700

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

124 S. Main St.
662-489-2183

MAPLE DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN

146 Maple Dr.
662-488-0401

**WHITE ZION
PRESBYTERIAN**

Hwy. 6 East
662-840-6589

OTHER

**ABUNDANT LIFE
CHRISTIAN CENTER**

267 W. 8th St.
662-489-8409

**CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

5206A Hwy. 15, Ecrú
539-0040

**CHURCH OF GOD
OF PROPHECY**

1528 Hwy. 341
662-660-0406

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

320 Starkard Rd.
662-488-8256

COLLEGE HILL

7027 Hwy. 6 E.
662-488-4060

**ECRU CHURCH OF
THE LORD JESUS**

259 Old Hwy. 15, Ecrú
662-489-4319

GOOD SHEPHERD

184 W. Bolton St.
662-489-2205

HARVESTER CHURCH

686 Royal Oak Drive, Pontotoc
662-489-4677

**HARVEST TIME
CHURCH OF GOD**

289 8th Street, Pontotoc
662-509-2517

HAYSEED COWBOY CHURCH

11171 MS-6, Thaxton
662-419-6104

HEAVEN BOUND CHURCH

110 Jericho Road, Pontotoc
662-308-7663

OASIS OF LOVE FELLOWSHIP

1195 Kings Hwy.
662-690-1920

PONTOTOC APOSTOLIC

248 Apostolic Circle
662-489-7121

REYNOLDS CHAPEL

6498 Hwy. 9 S.
489-3711

**TEMPLE OF GLORY
RESTORATION CHURCH**

364B East Oxford St.
Pontotoc, MS

**THOMPSON CHAPEL CHRISTIAN
METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

937 CR 308, Houlka, MS
662-568-2680

Public Learning Institutions

PONTOTOC COUNTY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Brock Puckett
354 Center Ridge Road
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-3932

Pontotoc County School Website:
pcsd.ms

SOUTH PONTOTOC ELEMENTARY

Grades K-5
1523 South Pontotoc Road
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-5941

SOUTH PONTOTOC MIDDLE

Grades 6-8
1523 South Pontotoc Road
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-3476

SOUTH PONTOTOC HIGH

Grades 9-12
1523 South Pontotoc Road
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-5925

NORTH PONTOTOC ELEMENTARY

Grades K-4
8324 Hwy 15 North
Ecru, MS 38841
662-489-5613

NORTH PONTOTOC UPPER ELEMENTARY

Grades 5-6
1620 Old Hwy 15 North
Ecru, MS 38841
662-489-2295

NORTH PONTOTOC MIDDLE

Grades 7-8
8324 Hwy 15 North
Ecru, MS 38841
662-489-2479

NORTH PONTOTOC HIGH

Grades 9-12
8324 Hwy 15 North
Ecru, MS 38841
662-489-5612

PONTOTOC CITY SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Dr. Michelle Bivens
140 Education Drive
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-3336

Pontotoc City School website:
pontotoc.k12.ms.us

PONTOTOC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades K-2
145 Fred Dowdy Avenue
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-4973

D.T. COX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades 3-4
304 Clark street
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-2454

PONTOTOC MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 5-6
132 North Main street
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-6056

PONTOTOC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 7-8
132 North Main street
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-8360

PONTOTOC HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12
123 North Main street
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-1275

PONTOTOC RIDGE CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

354 Center Ridge Road
Pontotoc, MS 38863
662-489-1826
Director: Patricia Ellison
Website: prctc.pcsd.k12.ms.us

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

1-800-235-0136 or 662-685-4161
Admissions
P.O. Box 106
Blue Mountain, MS 38610
Web site: bmc.edu

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fulton - 662-862-8034
Admissions
602 West Hill St.
Fulton, MS 38843
Web site: icc.ms.edu

Tupelo - 662-620-5306
Admissions
2176 South Eason Blvd. Tupelo, MS
38804
Website: icc.ms.edu

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

662-325-2224
Admissions
P. O. Box 6305
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Web site: msstate.edu

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

662-329-7106
Admissions
1100 College St. MUW -1613
Columbus, MS 39701-5800
Web site: muw.edu

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

662-726-7751 or 1-800-555-2154
Admissions
101 Cunningham Blvd. Booneville,
MS 38829
Web site: nemcc.edu

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

662-562-3219
Admissions
P.O. Box 4074
4975 Hwy. 51 North
Sentatobia, MS 38668
Web site: north-westms.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

662-915-7227 or 1-800-olemiss
Admissions
P.O. Box 1848
University, MS 38677
Web site: olemiss.edu

Calendar

AUGUST

- County Wide Pep Rally has been cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.

SEPTEMBER

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Bodock Festival has been cancelled until next year

OCTOBER

- Harvest Walk

NOVEMBER

- Veteran's day Ceremonies
- Community Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at Community House
- Christmas Open House Sunday before Thanksgiving- 1-5 p.m.

DECEMBER

- Algoma drive through nativity
- Pontotoc, Thaxton, Ecpu, Sherman and Toccopola Christmas Parades
- Rudolph run

JANUARY

- Martin Luther King Day parade and celebration

MARCH

- Customer Appreciation Day

APRIL

- Easter egg hunt at Howard Stafford Park (Could be last Saturday in March because Easter is April 4)
- Easter parade at Algoma on Saturday before Easter
- Art Guild Spring Gala

MAY

- North Pontotoc High Graduation
- South Pontotoc High Graduation
- Pontotoc High Graduation
- Memorial Day Ceremonies

JULY

- Independence Day parade downtown Pontotoc
- Independence Day picnic and fireworks in the park
- Pontotoc County Fair and Livestock show



Events listed may be modified or cancelled according to the Covid-19 pandemic CDC guidelines.

These are the events that are normally slated throughout the year in Pontotoc. Other events include Relay for Life and Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

Don't forget to check out all the news items you will find in the Progress which include church announcements, what's happening at the library and what's happening in each of the communities across the county.

Pontotoc

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WEBSITE

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