



# Delta Democrat-Times

Greenville, Mississippi

ddtonline.com

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## City readies to celebrate #onegreenville for #MS200

### Photo stories commemorating state's bicentennial to be on display Saturday in Schelben Park

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Folks are invited to Schelben Park on Saturday for the premiere of a series of photo stories produced by local community leaders to commemorate the state's bicentennial. The screening, made possible

through a partnership between Blue Magnolia Films and the City of Greenville, is free to the public and will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday, with other fun festivities starting at 5 p.m. The photo stories will be the end result of The Celebrating One Greenville Bicentennial workshop with Blue Magnolia Films, which in-

corporates the city's theme to stimulate revitalization and community pride for the state's bicentennial, Mayor Errick Simmons said.

"The process of honoring Greenville's diverse stories and storytellers lends itself to unifying the

"I think it helps the town's perception of itself, which changes the message we portray on the outside."

**Wesley Smith**

Greenville-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, executive director

See **BICENTENNIAL** on 2

## Residents a no-show again to public hearing concerning FOG control program

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Community members — once again — failed to express their thoughts or concerns about the City of Greenville's impending Fats, Oils and Greases (FOG) Control Program.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, the city held its second public hearing to receive resident input regarding the proposed FOG Program, which is designed to aid in the prevention of sanitary sewer blockages. But, no one in the public had much to say, again.

In April, the City of Greenville entered the public comment period for its FOG Program, which sets forth requirements to aid in the prevention of sanitary sewer blockages, obstructions and overflows

due to the contribution and accumulation of fats, oils and greases in the city's sanitary sewer system from residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers.

The program is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the city's partial consent decree (Civil Action No. 4:16-CV-018-DMB-DAS), Bill Burle, of W.L. Burle Engineering, said.

"The purpose is to keep fats, oils and greases out of the sewer system," Burle said. "They cause line blockages and interfere with operations at the pumps. The program will impact everyone in the city, whether they are a residential, commercial or industrial customer. However, it is primarily written for

See **FOG PROGRAM** on 3

## DRMC to extend reach within county

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Delta Regional Medical Center is looking to extend its reach to the outlying areas of Washington County.

Hospital Chief Executive Officer Scott Christensen during Monday's Washington County Board of Supervisors meeting said DRMC, in expanding its business and providing better patient care, is trying to create a bigger footprint in municipalities other than Greenville.

"We have to reach out past Greenville and truly be a regional medical center, where we're attracting patients from all different counties," Christensen said, noting they are looking to coordinate efforts with other communities to help market the services the hospital provides.

Although details have yet to be sorted on how to do just that, Christensen said the administration is working on a strategy to "attract re-

See **DRMC** on 2

## PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS



BILL JOHNSON/BILLJOHNSON@DDTONLINE.COM

City of Leland voters LeShaun McWright, from left, Ceotha McWright and Deloris McWright cast their votes Tuesday afternoon at the town's Health Department precinct for Wards 1 and 2. About 200 votes had been cast at there by noon with a steady flow of voters.

## Votes still being tallied in Leland, Hollandale

CATHERINE KIRK  
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Unfortunately, after a late night of counting votes from Tuesday's municipal primary elections in both Leland and Hollandale, officials aren't quite ready to release results. So, folks in Leland and Hollandale will have to wait another day — or at least a few more hours — to know who won the municipal Democratic primaries.

After both cities faced some computer problems Tuesday night, both Democratic Executive Party Committees for Leland and Hollandale opted to resume counting the votes this morning.

### Primary election:

#### City of Leland

In the City of Leland, where all candidates were running as Democrats, contending for incumbent Mala Brooks' Ward 1 seat was her mother, Barbara Rose Brooks, and Curtistene Davis.

Ward 2 Alderman Carl Williams was contested by Tammoral Brown Nealon, Elvin Wheatley and Johnny Jones.

Ward 3 Alderwoman Lisa Bush was challenged by Bridgett Adley.

Ward 4 Alderman Andy Petro and Ward 5 Alderwoman Nancy Jo King both ran unopposed.

#### City of Hollandale

Hollandale Mayor Charles E.

Morrow on Tuesday faced opposition from fellow Democrat Contaveia Johnson for a chance to sit at the helm of the city.

City Clerk Helen Johnson said aside from the mayor's seat, three of the four wards and the Alderman-at-Large seat faced opposition during Tuesday's Democratic primary.

"An Alderman-at-Large is the person that instead of having one area, he or she can go into each area to report an issue from any of the four wards," Johnson previously said. "Every citizen that votes can vote for him the same way they vote for the mayor."

See **ELECTION** on 2



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**DRMC / From 1**

gional patients through expertise, high-tech health care, specialists that provide a quality patient experience.”

During his update to the board, Christensen also discussed the financial status of the hospital, saying any revenue brought in this year should be used to upgrade the existing facility.

For the first six months of the fiscal year, which began in October, the hospital has brought in about \$700,000, which is a 1.25 percent margin, Christensen said.

“Hospitals with a 1.25 percent margin doesn’t mean that we are losing money. But reinvesting in some capital expenditures in our facility would

help us. There is still work to be done in order to get the margin up to 3 or 4 percent,” he said.

Delta Regional, like many hospitals across the state and nation, is also operating with the uncertainty of what changes will be made in health care. Right now, Christensen said, there is a lot of uncertainty with the Affordable Care Act and other state and national health care programs.

One of the biggest concerns DRMC is facing, Christensen said, when budgeting and looking at financials is the uncertainty with Medicare, one of the government’s largest health insurance programs, and Medicaid, a state-federal

program, including changes in hospital reimbursements.

“Anytime these programs have issues or changed, we feel the impact because we’re relying on Medicare and Medicaid. One of the things we see this year is that we have \$15.1 million in charity care and bad debt. That’s basically free care we’ve written off and providing the community,” Christensen said.

Still, the hospital remains on a solid foundation because of the success of the 2016 fiscal year, during which DRMC finished with a profit of \$4 million, which equates to a 3.3-percent operating margin.

**BICENTENNIAL / From 1**

community on many levels, culturally, economically and moving people to engage with the vision for One Greenville. Mississippi’s bicentennial is a moment to take pride in our success stories to date, while casting a positive vision for the future,” Simmons said. “We are proud of the multiplicity of voices who will come together for this week, particularly two youth from Greenville High School, who are taking their first steps toward leadership with this opportunity.”

The photo stories will each be 4 minutes in length. Participants and their photo stories, include:

- Betty Lynn Cameron — Delta Hot Tamale Festival
- Benjy Nelken — Hebrew Union Temple of Greenville
- Raymond Wong — St. Joseph Catholic School
- Johnny Toy and Alex Jackson — Coleman High School
- Sharon Walker — Greenville Reflection & Youth Development Museum
- Claude Marchesini — Bill Boykin’s downtown development
- Essie Patterson — Patterson Farms
- Sylvia Jackson — Area Agency on Aging
- Mable Starks — Mississippi Action for Community Education
- Genesis Norman — Mayor Errick Simmons and Sen. Derrick T. Simmons

These photos stories will be posted online using social media and will be integrated into downtown revitalization projects, including a “walkable” gallery, community events and a book project highlighting bicentennial stories around the state.

Nelken, president of the Hebrew Union Temple of Greenville, said his story will focus on the legacy of Jewish history in Greenville.

“I want to focus on the spirituality of the Hebrew Union Temple and not just the building itself but the congregates. We have a congregation that’s 120 years old and we’re still going strong. And we want to show and illustrate that still exists and Jewish heritage is ongoing,” Nelken said.

Also looking to showcase some history is Starks, who is focusing on Mississippi Action for Community Education, which is commemorating 50 years, thanks to its founders Fannie Lou Hamer, Amsie Moore, Annie Devine and

**Official hashtags for Saturday’s event, marking the end of the Celebrating One Greenville Bicentennial workshop with Blue Magnolia Films, are #onegreenville, #greenvillepride and #MS200.**

Unita Blackwell. “Somewhere, we stopped telling our stories. This year is a rebuilding of that vision ... because once you know who you are, you can begin to develop a roadmap to where you want to go,” Starks said.

Cameron, co-founder of the Delta Hot Tamale Festival, said her bicentennial photo story “is a way to celebrate and to give new audiences an opportunity to check it out for themselves.”

Local partners also assisting in the photo project include Main Street Greenville, Washington County Economic Alliance, Greenville and Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Boykin. Other supporters include Blue Magnolia Films, Barefoot Workshops and Corner to Corner Productions and Greenville native Laeitta Wade/Eitabug Productions.

“We do have a historic district downtown,” Daniel Boggs, chief executive officer of Main Street Greenville, said. “I am very interested in Bill Boykin, our local developer, because there is a movement across the nation around getting back to the core, our downtown. His projects, including The Lofts, can hopefully be the spark plug for that engine.”

Wesley Smith, executive director of the Greenville and Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the project will have a positive impact on tourism.

“I think it helps the town’s perception of itself, which changes the message we portray on the outside,” Smith said.

If it rains Saturday, the screening will be held at E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center, 323 South Main St. Official hashtags for the event will be: #onegreenville, #greenvillepride and #MS200.

For more information, folks can contact Kenya Collins at 662-378-1501 and Alison Fast at 310-497-7109.

**ELECTION / From 1**

Incumbent Carl Dorsey was contested by Geraldine Haggard, for Ward 1; Incumbent Robert E. Swint and Alice Robinson were vying for Ward 2; Incumbent Janice Johnson was challenged by Bryine Smith for Ward 3; and Incumbent Alderman-at-Large Ronnie T. Williams faced Ricky Vassar and Johnnie Mackin.

Independent Brian Ballinger ran unopposed for Ward 4.

**General election**

Primary runoffs, if needed, are May 16. The general election, which will also include Metcalfe and Arcola, will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 6. The new term begins July 1.

**Leland**

In June’s general election, incumbent Independent Mayor Kenny Thomas and alderwoman Mala U. Brooks, Democrat, will be vying for

the city’s top position.

Wards 1 and 2 will vote at the Health Department, 801 N. Broad St.; Wards 3 and 4 will vote at the Leland Public Library, 107 N. Broad St.; and Ward 5 will vote at the Rotary Club, 407 California St.

**Arcola**

In Arcola, where all candidates are registered as an Independent, there are two people contesting for the mayor’s seat in June.

Rickesha Williams will challenge incumbent mayor Cora Burnside. Six candidates are running for a spot on the Board of Aldermen.

Ricky Williams and Jamie O. Bridges will contest incumbent alderpersons Jack C. Bonney, Johnny Sprouse, Harold Roby Winters Jr. and Tinnie Richmond.

Voters will go to the Arcola Technology Building, 101 Tower Lane.

**Metcalfe**

Four people are contending for Metcalfe mayor and eight people are vying for a chance to sit on the five-member Board of Aldermen this election year.

Incumbent mayor Corey Holmes will face opposition from Walter McDavid, Ervin Sturdevant and Alderman Jarvis Ware.

Because Metcalfe does not have wards, the top five candidates, all of whom are running as Independent, are elected to the Board of Aldermen.

Running for a spot on the board are Cora Green, Raymond Scott and Pamela Jimsen. Newcomers hoping for a seat include Debra Lewis, Torriane Carter, Dewayne Rhodes, Theresa Hardy, Shaquita Allen and Aldric Murray.

All voters will go to Metcalfe Town Hall, 315 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

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