

# Master of watercolor paints Bolton scene

By Susalyn Bennett

Adjacent to a large cornfield in Bolton, Mississippi, a rig toils quietly, pulling oil from the earth. It is one of a few rigs still in operation in Bolton. At one time, there were more than a dozen rigs in town. On a recent August day, Clinton artist Wyatt Waters braved the summer heat and a few fire ants to paint the scene. The painting he calls Tanks a Lot is just one of more than 7,000 that he has created over the years.

Waters lives with his wife, Kristi, in a restored home in Clinton's historic Olde Towne District, not far from Lion's Club Park.

The 66-year-old artist is considered a master of watercolor. His paintings have been featured in numerous exhibitions, prestigious art magazines, books and on television, and the awards he



Tanks a Lot, painted in Bolton by Wyatt Waters, August, 2021

has received include the Mississippi Governor's Award for Artistic Excellence.

From an early age, Waters

knew that he had a strong desire to paint, that watercolor was his favorite medium, and that he prefers being outdoors in the

physical presence of what he is painting.

"When I'm sitting on the side of the road painting, many people are confused by that. They can't understand why I choose to do it that way. And I won't lie. It is hard to do it this way. When I am out there in the heat, or the cold, in the rain... with the dust and the ants... all of what I am experiencing - the scents and sounds and all of it - goes into the painting. I don't know how to explain it, but it makes the paintings better."

"On the good paintings, there's conflict," continues Waters. "As I paint, I am fighting with all these elements and trying to find the resolution. Conflict makes the painting better."

When asked how he selects what to paint, Waters said, "I

cont. on page 3

## Thompson wants all of Hinds County placed in 2nd District

by Bobby Harrison, Mississippi Today

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Bolton, Mississippi's longest serving member of Congress, has told state legislators that he would prefer that all of Hinds County be placed in his district.

State legislators will attempt to redraw the state's four congressional districts early in the 2022 session to match population shifts found by the recently completed U.S. Census. Both the U.S. Constitution and state law mandate that all of a state's congressional districts have close to the same population.

Thompson's 2nd District, which includes much of the Mississippi Delta and a large portion of Hinds, the state's most

populous county, is the only one of the state's four congressional districts to have lost population since 2010.

According to information compiled by Chism Strategies, a Mississippi-based polling and political consulting firm, Thompson's district is 65,829 short of the ideal district size of 740,319 people.

Based on Census numbers:

- The 1st District, which includes much of north Mississippi, including the Memphis suburb of DeSoto County in northwest Mississippi, and the Tupelo area in northeast Mississippi, is 17,913 people more than the ideal size.

- The 3rd District, which stretches from east Mississippi

to southwest Mississippi and includes much of the Jackson metro area, is 10,719 more than the ideal size.

- The Gulf Coast-based 4th District has been the fastest growing district, 37,196 more than the ideal size.

Thompson, the state's sole African American member of Congress, recently spoke to legislators who were holding public hearings to garner input before beginning their task of redrawing the U.S. House and state legislative districts. He told them he would prefer all of Hinds County be placed in his district.

"I have part of Hinds County. If you look at Hinds County — just give me Hinds County, and

you are pretty close to having it," Thompson said, referring to having the "ideal" number of residents in his district. "I live in Hinds County. I have lived all my life in Hinds County... I think communities of interest are vitally important" to stay together in redistricting.

According to Census data, 31,150 Hinds County residents are in District 3, currently represented by U.S. Rep. Michael Guest of Rankin County. If those Hinds County residents were moved to Thompson's district, he still would be about 35,000 residents short of the "ideal size." Legislators still

cont. on page 5



# United Way of the Capital Area donates school kits



Special to Bolton News

Students at Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School recently received a nice surprise - multi-piece school supply kits. The kits, which were customized for each grade, were donated by United Way of the Capital Area, which has its offices in Jackson. United Way of the Capital Area and WAPT had teamed up for a School Tools School Supply Drive in July. A kit was provided for every student in grades pre-K through eighth grade. Pictured are first grade students with their school supply kits.



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cont. from page 1

# Master of watercolor paints Bolton scene



Wyatt Waters signing Catch 2022 calendars

Photo by Susalyn Bennett

ride around a lot, looking for something to paint. I always say, it's easier to make a choice on a quarter of a tank. When I'm down to a quarter tank, it forces me to make a choice. I have been to Bolton to paint many times, and, on that day in August, the rig was what 'spoke to me' that day."

The oil rig in Waters' painting sits on land owned by Gaddis Farms. Mr. Ted H. Kendall, III, CEO of Gaddis Farms, is a fourth-generation descendant of J. L. Gaddis, Sr., who came to Bolton in the 1870s. The family-owned businesses include Gaddis Farms, "The Store" (Gaddis & McLaurin) and Gaddis Gin.

"I was just eighteen years old when oil was discovered in Bolton," said Kendall. "That was in 1954. It was a pretty big deal for the town. Oil was selling for about \$3 a barrel back then. The first well went up on the Mashburns' place on the south side of the railroad tracks. Several more followed over time. The oil that has been found in the past sixty-plus years - and even until this day - has all been located in the original Bolton Oil Field. Numerous searches have been conducted, attempting to find oil in the surrounding areas, but none was ever found."

The Waters are working on a new book that has had them exploring various parts of the U.S., with Wyatt painting new works for the book as they go. They anticipate having the content ready to submit to their publisher next spring, and the book is expected to be published



Wyatt and Kristi Waters

Photo by Susalyn Bennett

around November, 2022.

"Our camper is a 16-foot Casita that we pull behind our Ford Expedition," said Waters. "Next up, is a trip to the mountains to paint fall colors."

Waters has been busy autographing his new calendar for 2022, titled Catch 2022 and featuring thirteen images of recent, unpublished paintings, printed on textured paper and signed by Waters. An avid musician, Waters admitted that he's currently playing "just enough to keep his callouses," but recording a new CD is not out of the realm of possibility.

"It is an itch you've got to scratch, when it hits you."

The Wyatt Waters Gallery is located at 307 Jefferson Street in Clinton. For more information about Wyatt Waters, visit [www.wyattwaters.com](http://www.wyattwaters.com).

**The Bolton News** inside **The Clinton Courier** is available to pick up **for free** at more than 100 locations in Clinton, 8 in Raymond, and 6 in Bolton. **20,000+ readers per issue.** It is also available online, at: [www.BoltonMS.com](http://www.BoltonMS.com)

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# BEEMS is bully-free, announces Oct. 5 homecoming

by Lashurn Williams



Earlier this month, students participated in role playing and other activities that drove home why bullying is hurtful and unacceptable. BEEMS Rangers pledge to respect others and their property, and to exercise courtesy. We are proud to be bully-free. Mark your calendar: BEEMS Homecoming is on Tuesday, October 5.

The sorority sisters of the Tau Upsilon chapter of Zeta Phi Beta, Inc. Sorority began supporting our school a year ago this month. They have been a wonderful school partner, providing items for our classrooms, school supplies for students and participating in Read Across America. Last month, they delivered over 1,200 items for students, including ruled paper, construction paper, glue, scissors and much more. These items are available to students as they need to replenish their supplies. Cassandra Bishop, who teaches sixth grade social studies and science at BEEMS, is a member. Thank you, ladies, for all you do!"

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Lashurn Williams is the principal of Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School.*



Dr. Patsy Nash, who teaches fourth grade, was 2020 Teacher of the Year.



Ms. Elicia Davis is helping her students prepare to pass the Third Grade Gate test.



Fourth-grade students, pictured with some of the school supplies provided by the Tau Upsilon chapter of Zeta Phi Beta





cont. from page 1

# Thompson wants all of Hinds County placed in 2nd District

would have to look to other areas of the state to add more people to Thompson’s district.

Whether legislators would opt to move north into DeSoto and Tate counties to acquire those residents, southwest into the Natchez area or east will be watched closely.



Special to The Bolton News  
U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson

Sen. Hob Bryan, D-Amory, a member of the Joint Legislative Redistricting Committee, said it is not clear what path legislators will opt to take to pick up those residents for District 2, but that the intent will be to ensure the district remains predominately African American.

Mississippi has a Black population of about 37%, so it would be difficult for state leaders to justify to the federal courts not having an

African American majority district.

But when legislators take people from one district, it will create a domino effect that most likely will impact all of the congressional districts at least slightly because the goal is to be as close to the “ideal size” as “practicable,” according to the law.



Department of the Interior, National Atlas of the United States  
Mississippi's congressional districts since 2013



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November 2nd

**REGINALD THOMPSON**  
**Hinds County Sheriff**

As Sheriff I will hit the ground running to:

- Bring integrity to the Sheriff's Department.
- Address problems at the Hinds Detention Center in Raymond.
- Increase deputy patrol visibility.
- Develop patrol management to reduce response time.
- Collaborate with other agencies to target high crime areas.

I am a lifelong resident of Hinds County, member of Little Bethel CMC Church, married to Stephanie Thompson and have four children. I have 41 years of law enforcement experience and am a veteran who served three deployments. I believe the people of Hinds County deserve better. I ask for your vote and thank you for your consideration.

**Hinds County deserves better.**

## Memorial United Methodist Church

### Small town church looking to fill upcoming vacancy for Choir Director Position

- Candidate should possess good leadership qualities and people skills.
- Be available for Choir Practice on Wednesday evening and Worship on Sunday morning as well as periodic special services around holidays throughout the year.
- Responsibilities include leading Choir Rehearsals once a week, planning and leading regular worship service, and special services with the pastor.
- Minimum one year experience teaching music, leading worship, or directing Choir/musical group is required.
- Familiarity with the United Methodist Church and liturgy is preferable.
- Part Time Salaried Position

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## September 7th Board of Aldermen meeting recap

By Susalyn Bennett

A number of issues were addressed during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen held on September 7. In attendance were Mayor Lawrence Butler, Alderman-at-Large William Woods, Alderman Douglas Beard, Alderwoman Helen Harris, Clerk Sheila Williams and municipal attorney James Anderson.

Two candidates seeking the elected office of Sheriff of Hinds County made presentations regarding why they believe they are best-suited to serve as the next Sheriff of Hinds County.

A citizen who wishes to open a new retail business on Madison Street asked the Board to approve the location she has selected to build a drive-through lane and a structure to house the business. After a period of discussion, questions and answers, the Board asked her to call the office and schedule a time to meet with them at the proposed location. She said she will call soon to schedule.

Asst. Chief Reginald Thompson made a presentation on behalf of Bolton Police Department regarding prices and vehicle specifications he obtained from a dealership for a new officer patrol car that has been requested by the Department.

Mayor Butler stated that while he understands that the police need a new car, there's another issue that must be addressed, involving fencing, sewage and the Industrial Park.

Ward 1 Alderman Beard stated that he wishes to review copies of cancelled checks, 1099's and W-2s.

The Board approved allowing Senator John Horhn to speak at the next meeting. They also approved allowing candidates for Sheriff who wish to address the Board be allowed to speak for up to ten minutes.

Ward 2 Alderwoman Harris requested the current status of the reconciliations being performed by BBI. The clerk stated that six months' worth had been completed, to date.

Alderman-at-Large Woods made motions that the minutes, bills and minutes from a special board meeting be approved. The motions were seconded and passed by a unanimous vote.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the town hall, 202 Bolton Raymond Road. The public is invited to attend.

### PUBLIC NOTICE - SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

The following described property owned by the town of Bolton MS is hereby offered for public sale by the sealed bids process:

**2008 Ford Crown Victoria, color blue, to be sold AS IS**  
**2010 Ford Crown Victoria, color white, to be sold AS IS**

Any person interested in offering a bid for the purchase for one or both of these vehicles must turn in their bid (in a sealed envelope) to Bolton City Hall\* during normal business hours and no later than 5 p.m. on October 4, 2021. Bid must include bidder's contact information. \*202 Bolton Raymond Road, 601-866-2221.

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