



THE Bolton NEWS

Alliance starts with vision followed by pastors

by Shirley Burns

Hinds County Ministerial Alliance is a non-profit Bible based organization and is operated by several pastors and ministers of the Bolton and surrounding communities. It was founded in 2015 by Pastor Clyde Robinson and was properly organized with the naming of officers and board members in 2018. It was granted its non-profit 501c3 status in 2021.

The pastors followed their vision and opportunity to acquire the Hinds County school building that was previously named the Main Street Restart Center. The vision to acquire this school building for the community came to Rev. George Farrell and was supported and assisted by the other pastors and board members.

He said "this is by-far a blessing orchestrated by God."

The pastors and clergies currently meet for Bible study and/or Bible training each Saturday morning at 9 a.m. in the Ministerial Alliance meeting room. This study is open to clergies and anyone who wishes to attend. The vision is to make this facility accessible to the Bolton and Hinds County community for meetings and other group activities that will enhance the economic, social, physical and spiritual well-being of the residents. The ministry is open to receiving donations, grants, gifts, in-kind and volunteer help.

Rev. George Ferrell, president, is a resident of Clinton and a pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Edwards. He is president of the Hinds County Baptist Association and has served on various councils, including on Clinton's Board of Aldermen for a number of years. Rev. Ferrell was instrumental in acquiring the 501c3 non-profit status and other legal requirements for the Ministerial Alliance.

Rev. Clyde Robinson, vice president, is a resident of Bolton and serves as the pastor of Discipline and Disciples Church in Bolton. He is president of the Hinds County Congress of Christian education, founder of the Hinds County Ministerial Alliance and is a well-respected pastor of the community.

Rev. Clavorn Logan, secretary/treasurer, is a resident of Edwards and the pastor of

New Morning Star Baptist Church in Tallulah, Louisiana. He served under Rev. S.L. Spann at Greater Fairview Jackson and Rev. Elzie O'Neal at United Mission Baptist Church, Edwards. He retired from the Rankin County Public School System in 2016.

The Alliance location is 130 Champion Hill Road in Bolton. For more information, call 769-208-0660 or e-mail HindsCtyMinisterialAlliance@gmail.com.



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Merchants & Planters to acquire OmniBank in 2022

Special to The Bolton News

Merchants & Planters Bank and OmniBank recently announced the signing of a Definitive Merger Agreement pursuant to which Merchants & Planters Bank will acquire OmniBank.

Merchants & Planters Bank, founded in 1906, operates three locations in Bolton, Raymond and Clinton, with approximately \$120,000,000 in total assets.

OmniBank has their headquarters in Bay Springs, with locations in Heidelberg and Jackson. The total assets for OmniBank are approximately \$54,000,000.

The merger agreement has been unanimously approved by the voting members of the Board of Directors of each

financial institution and is expected to close in the second quarter of 2022.

"They have a strong desire to grow and continue our legacy of involvement in the communities we serve," said Mr. Joseph D. Fail, Chairman of the Board of OmniBank. "By merging with Merchants & Planters Bank, our customers will gain access to a wider breadth of banking products and services."

"We are excited about the merger and the opportunity that it presents for our combined clients, team members, and shareholders," said Mr. Ted H. Kendall, III Chairman of the Board of Merchants & Planters. "We believe that combining two like-minded, community-focused banks will benefit our customers and the communities we serve."



Special to The Bolton News

Bolton's parade draws crowds and delights residents



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The 2021 Bolton Christmas Parade drew a large, enthusiastic crowd. Adults and children alike said they were delighted by the procession of colorful floats, flashy vehicles, prancing steeds, Santa and the Grinch.

Originally scheduled for De-

cember 11, the forecast for severe weather conditions that day led the Parade Committee to re-schedule the event for the following afternoon.

The theme for the parade was "A Joyous Noel."

The ROTC color guard provided the kick-off, and Danny Lurk served as the Grand Marshall. Santa Claus rode on the B-Town Steakhouse float, and the Grinch followed behind on the float of Gaddis and McLaurin, which is celebrating 150 years in business this year. Their float included hundreds of colorful balloons and a giant birthday cake. Dem Drummer Boys drum corps played rousing cadences, and every group and individual participating in the parade contributed to the spectacle and holiday cheer.

Visit bit.ly/Paradex for more photos and details about the parade.

Bolton broadcast student ready to tell her story

Special to The Bolton News

Telling the world her thoughts and feelings wasn't something Tewana Johnson was used to doing until she gave birth to her second child.

"My son, Ra Tarik, was born with Down's Syndrome," said Johnson. "I started out not wanting to say anything about my son's diagnosis. But now, it's easier for me to say what's going on."

What's going on is a life-changing life change, as Johnson puts it. The 41-year-old Bolton ICU nurse and mother of two is adding a second skill set - and probably a second career - thanks to Hinds and federal COVID-19 legislation.

Johnson, who had earned a bachelor's degree in nursing years ago, returned this past summer to take classes made possible by the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. The funding allowed those negatively affected by the pandemic to attend school and rebuild their careers.

"I wouldn't have been able to afford to come back to school and continue," she said. "I'm very appreciative of it."

She hopes what she's now studying will help other parents of children born with developmental conditions. With the help of instructor Tim Crisler of the Radio and Television Broadcast program at Hinds' Utica Campus, she's learning the ins and outs of effective self-presentation to bring her child's story to the world.

"We do speech and physical therapy with my son four days a week," she said. "So I began filming my 11-year-old daughter Taylor Rai and I doing therapy with him and began thinking I could become an inspiration to someone else in the same situation. I didn't know anything about doing video or broadcasting. But I knew the class dealt with filming, editing and being able to present stories."

She is on track to earn a credential in broadcasting by next fall, all while maintaining her schedule as a nurse. In the age of broadcasting oneself online, Johnson sees an opportunity to bring awareness to Down's Syndrome and the challenges parents face with it.

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Tewana Johnson of Bolton

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Bolton Book Club to meet February 15

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The next meeting of the Bolton Book Club is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 15, at the Annie T. Jeffers Library on W. Madison Street.

The current book selection is *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones.

For more information about the book, its author, and the book club, visit bit.ly/3zBook.