

# All in the Family: Hawkins Farms

By Susalyn Bennett

Today, Hawkins Farms of Bolton encompasses more than 200 acres and is home to three breeds of cattle. Roosevelt Hawkins, Sr. and his son, Roosevelt Hawkins, Jr., say they love the fact that they can call the sprawling acreage their home.

The family-owned business began with a wedding gift to Roosevelt Hawkins, Sr. and his wife, Lucindy Hill Hawkins, from Hawkins' parents, Mae Lillie and Eldridge Hawkins, Sr. It was a registered Angus cow. The couple also received forty acres of land in Bolton from Lucindy's parents. Both had been raised on a farm and had learned a good deal about livestock during their early years. But, at that time, Roosevelt and Lucindy were enjoying their careers as school teachers and looking forward to starting a family of their own.

Roosevelt taught school for thirty-five years, with thirty-two of



Father and son, Roosevelt Hawkins, Sr. and Roosevelt, Jr.

Susalyn Bennett

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

those years spent in the Clinton Public Schools, teaching technology to seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade students. He retired in 2011.

"I had some of the greatest co-workers and schools to work in that you can imagine. I had a great life then, and I'm having a great life

now. I love running into my former students. When I left teaching, I wanted to help care for my ailing father. He passed in 2011."

Lucindy, who taught chemistry and biology, has retired from teaching, as well.

Teaming up with Roosevelt's brother, James Hawkins, they have acquired several additional pieces of land and have bred and built up their herds, bringing Hawkins Farms to where it is today.

Hawkins' father had urged his children to have a back-up source of income, such as cattle. For big life events, Eldridge would give him the gift of a cow, beginning with that first black angus. Thirty generations later, Roosevelt still has cows and calves from that blood line: descendants of that special first gift from his Dad.

cont. on page 5

# Horhn discusses Legislature monies; Town refuses to provide budget

The Bolton News

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen was held at 6 p.m. on September 21, attended by Mayor Lawrence Butler, Alderman-at-Large William Woods, Alderman Douglas Beard, Alderwomen Vera Powell, Shirley Mason and Helen Harris, as well as municipal attorney James Anderson, Jr., Letitia Henry and Chief of Police Michael Williams.

John Horhn, Mississippi State Senator for District 26 in Hinds and Madison counties, made remarks concerning funds that have been awarded to the Town of Bolton under the American Rescue Plan (\$98,000 thus far) and additional resources he encourages Bolton to apply for.

"The Legislature has \$1.8 billion," said Horhn, "and we want to make sure the Town of Bolton is not left out. If you have some infrastructural needs - not roads and bridges, but other infrastructure needs - I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. The first thing the Legislature will want to see is how you are spending the \$98,000 you received this year."

"I suggest you put a budget plan together for about \$200,000 that you need,

and you will land somewhere between that amount and the \$98,000 already awarded," continued Horhn. "Only those communities who have a plan that is submitted are going to be seriously considered by the Legislature for a share of the \$1.8 billion. I wanted to encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity."

Horhn said there are other opportunities that will come in the bi-partisan infrastructure bill, and he encouraged Bolton officials to start putting together a wish list of what they want for the community to make it better.

"There is also money at the Economic Development Administration for communities that have travel tourism and outdoor recreation, planning grants, under the Build Back Better program," said Horhn. "You can go to the website of MEDA. They have six different areas you can apply for. Under the \$1.8 billion the Legislation has, COVID recovery and public safety are also acceptable. Roads and bridges will likely be covered under the federal bi-partisan infrastructure bill. That is why I'm suggesting that you save your needs for roads and bridges. CMPDD can be of assistance to you in writing your plan, and I am available to assist you, as well."

A candidate seeking the elected office of Sheriff of Hinds County then made a presentation and answered questions raised by people in the audience.

Mayor Butler announced that the Board needed to go into executive session, which is not open to the public. Butler asked if anyone in the audience had anything they would like to say or questions they would like to ask before the executive session began.

The Bolton News reporter Susalyn Bennett asked, "At the previous Tuesday night meeting, it was mentioned that the budget would be voted on, by September 15, I believe. I would like to get a copy of the budget that was adopted, so that we can publish the information in the newspaper."

Mayor Butler replied, "I understand. Something is going to be talked about in the executive session. I have your number and will call you tomorrow."

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, located at

202 Bolton Raymond Road. The public is invited to attend.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Ms. Bennett did not receive a call from Mayor Butler. On September 24 (three days following the meeting), she called Town Hall. The Town Clerk told Bennett by telephone that the Town of Bolton had adopted its Fiscal Budget for 2021. When Bennett asked if she could obtain a copy, the Town Clerk told Bennett that Bennett would not be provided a copy, that the State of Mississippi must first receive their copy and confirm receipt of their copy before a copy can be provided to anyone else. According to Section 21-35-9, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), after the budget

is completed, the Board "shall then, by resolution, approve and adopt the budget and enter the same at length and in detail in their official minutes," thereby making it a matter included in the public record.



Susalyn Bennett

Sen. John Horhn speaking at Bolton Town Hall





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## Food Drive Challenge a big success



*special to The Bolton News*

Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School recently held a Food Drive Challenge, collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items to restock the MFN local food pantry. The class with the most donations received a pizza party. All grades participated, and the school collected more than 1,650 items. The sixth-grade classes contributed 405 items. Pre-K and Kindergarten contributed the most, with 418 items. Pictured are sixth-grade students and their teacher, Cassandra Bishop, with some of the items they contributed.

## St. Mary's extends invitation to annual Homecoming Eucharist

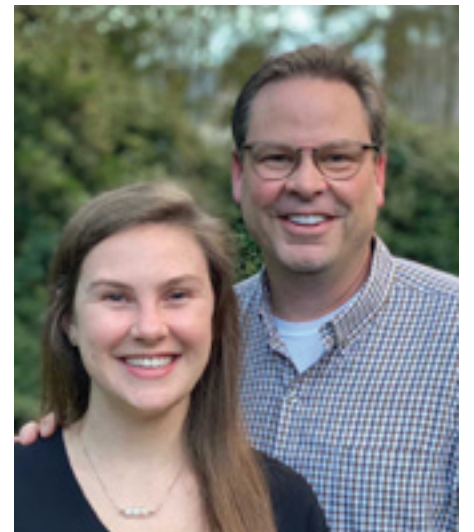
*Special to The Bolton News*

The public is invited to join St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bolton for their annual Homecoming Eucharist, led by Rev. Haily Allin and Deacon Josie Williams, with musical offerings by Michael Gibson, Elizabeth Gibson and Sid Champion, organist.

Homecoming was initially scheduled for September but had to be rescheduled for this month.

The service will take place on Sunday, October 17, beginning at 4 p.m.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is located at 209 East Madison Street in Bolton.



*special to The Bolton News*

Elizabeth Gibson and Michael Gibson

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THE *Bolton* NEWS

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town of Bolton, Mississippi, will receive written proposals until the hour of 3:00 p.m., local time on Monday, October 11, 2021, at the office of the Town of Bolton located at 202 Bolton-Raymond Rd., Bolton, MS 39041 (601-866-2221) for Administrative Services for the American Rescue Plan Act Funds



cont. from page 1

# All in the Family: Hawkins Farms



Special to The Bolton News

Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Roosevelt Hawkins, Sr. and Mae Lillie Hawkins; and back row: Eldridge Hawkins, Jr., Eldridge, Sr., Betty and James Hawkins.



Special to The Bolton News



Susalyn Bennett

When asked for the name of the cow that started it all, Roosevelt said, “I don’t give names to any of them. I would get too attached if I named them. When I call them, they come running and line up like kids. It is hard not to get attached.”

“Now we have three different herds, three different breeds of cattle: registered Black Angus, Brangus and Ultra Black. The Brangus are 3/8 Brahman and 5/8 Angus. The Ultra Blacks are a cross between Brangus and registered Angus. The herds have grown over time, and, even with the help of my son, Roosevelt, Jr. and my nephew Jason, it is still a full-time job. Many evenings, Lucindy and I take our ‘honeymoon stroll’ going around to each pasture, checking on the cows. Then we head to the store and treat ourselves to a snack.”

“My father and mother were both interested in cows and land. As long as I live, I will keep building on the family farm, and keep it going. When my time comes, it is my hope to pass it on to my son, Roosevelt, Jr., and nephew, Jason, and that they can keep it going and pass it on to their children.”

Says twenty-six-year-old Roosevelt, Jr: “I was ‘the country boy’ back in my school days at Clinton High. Farming is pretty popular now, but, back then, my friends made jokes about me being a country boy.”



Susalyn Bennett

*A descendent of the Hawkins' first Black Angus cow*

Formerly the curator of educational programming for two Mississippi museums, Roosevelt, Jr. has recently gone to work for Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson.

“I love the farm and like to help Dad as much as I can, but it is hard to make time for everything,” said Roosevelt, Jr.

“At one time I also had twenty-seven head of horses,” said Roosevelt.

“When Jr. was young, we went to a lot of horse shows. During his teens, we went to horse shows every Saturday.”

Roosevelt Jr. dreams of one day, “taking Hawkins Farms one step further. I want to take it out into the community and share some of the important things we learn from farming. We can go to college and get a degree, like the liberal arts degree that I have; but, if things go south, no matter how bad things get, the things you learn from farming can help keep you alive.”

Serving the community is very important to him, he says.

“I am involved in the NAACP Next Generation Leadership program, help with voter registration drives, and I represent Mississippi in the 2021 Cohort for the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute. ‘Working hard and serving the Lord’ is my motto. Part of serving is reaching out and helping others. It is hard to find the time and balance everything, but one day I hope to make the family proud and take over and run Hawkins Farms.”

# Jerry Kerner for Congress 2022

## From the Great State of Mississippi

### **THE PRINCIPLE:**

We the People of the United States on September 17, 1787 did ordain and establish the Constitution for the United States of America, and on December 15, 1791 the States did Ratify the Bill of Rights.

### **THE PROBLEM:**

The current un-American administration occupying the White House has tried to ignore the Rights and Liberty of the People by promoting chaos at our Southern border, by unconstitutional "mandates" created to attempt to nullify the Bill of Rights, and by using tyrannical measures to try to silence dissent and create an irrational fear of each other among the People.

Many elected officials have actively or cowardly joined in these un-American activities, and have voted for several unconstitutional pieces of Legislation attempting to promote election fraud, trying to reward criminals who enter our Country illegally and shamelessly attempting to buy votes with the illusion of "free stuff".

### **HOWEVER:**

We are The People who will remind the un-American elected officials that when they took and signed their Oath of Office to Support and Defend the Constitution of the United States, We were listening and We demand that they keep their word.

We are The People who will remind the un-American elected officials that they work for Us, in temporary jobs at that, and that We are neither their subjects nor subject to their attempts at tyranny.

We are The People who will remind the un-American elected officials that our unalienable Rights including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness are endowed by God, not by any government.

We are The People who have the Courage to stand up to attempts at tyranny by our un-American elected and non-elected officials just as millions of American soldiers have stood up to foreign tyranny.

### **THEREFORE:**

We are The People who refuse to re-elect these un-American officials, and instead will vote for Patriots in the 2022 Primary and General elections who will return this Country to the ideals that the United States of America was founded upon. In Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District We are The People who will elect Jerry Kerner in 2022.

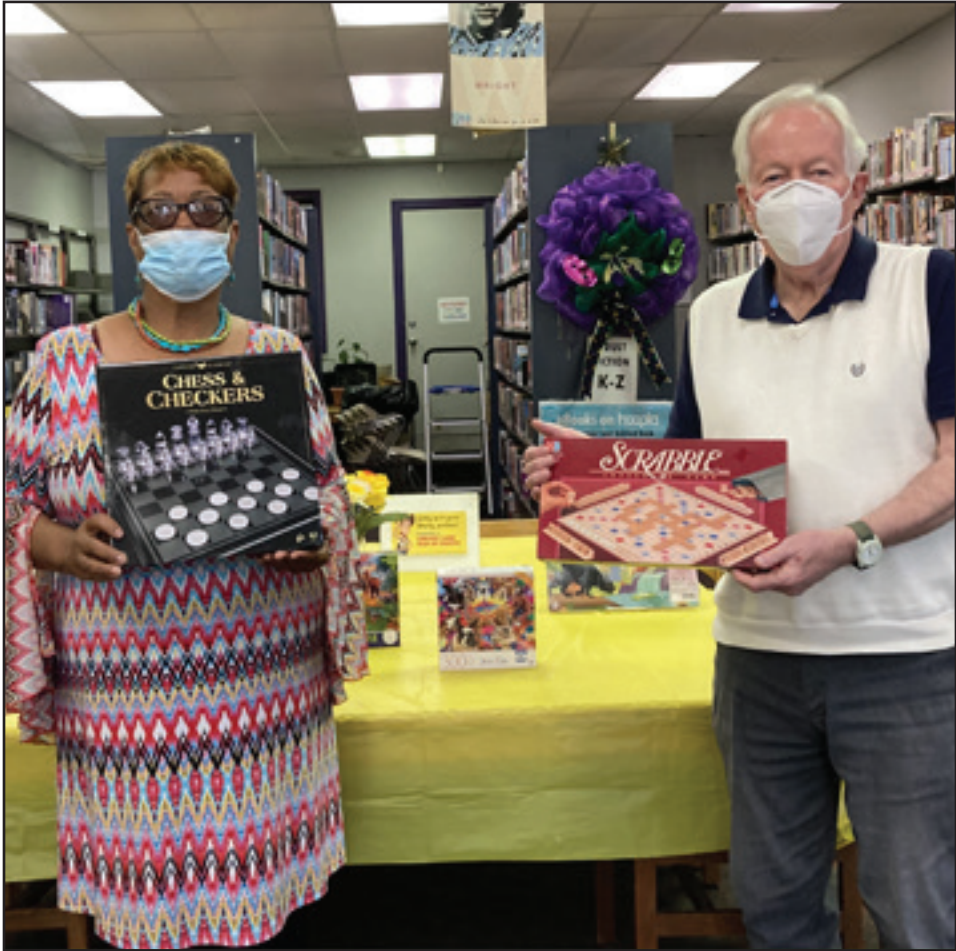


# Puzzles and games donated to Bolton Library

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church of Bolton recently donated several puzzles and games to the Annie T. Jeffers Library for the enjoyment of community youth and library patrons. Alfenette Robinson, library manager, accepted the donations and thanked the church, its Fine Arts Director James Anderson, and the church’s Outreach Ministry co-chairs, Tippy Garner, Yvonne Rogers and Ellen McLean.



Special to Bolton News



Special to Bolton News

Alfenette Robinson and James Anderson



# VOTE

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

Resume and references should be sent to [umcmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:umcmemorial@gmail.com) if interested.



## Clinic held for Bolton Residents



Special to Bolton News

The Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable, Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center and St. Thomas Baptist Church, Pastor Darryl Magee, teamed up to hold a free COVID-19 Vaccine Pop-up Clinic. Pictured, left to right: Melissa Overton, Frances Triplett, Therese Dudley, Maggie Bass, Marstonya Butler, Vanessa Cage, Justin Harrison and Whitney May.

## Rangers are 5 and 1



By Ginny Barlow-Price Photography

After defeating Wingfield High School, the Rangers are now 5 and 1 for the season. They will play at home on Friday, October 8, against the Lanier High Bulldogs.



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## Hinds County Elections: Important Dates

*The Bolton News*

On Tuesday, November 2, voters in Hinds County will go to the polls to elect a new sheriff to serve the time remaining in the term of Sheriff Lee Vance, who passed away in August.

Voters in County Court Judge District 1 will choose their County Court Judge. Voters in County Constable District 5 will elect a new constable.

Absentee voting is going on now. Absentee balloting begins forty-five days prior to an election and ends at noon on the Saturday preceding the election. The Hinds County Circuit Clerk's offices in Raymond and Jackson will be open for absentee voting from 8 a.m. until noon on the two Saturdays prior to the election.

The deadline to register to vote in the November 2 election was October 4. Individuals must be registered to vote at least thirty days before an election. Newly-registered voters will be eligible to vote in elections occurring 30 days after registration.

## COVID-19 booster shots are now available

*The Bolton News*

A booster shot of the Pfizer vaccine is now available at all county health department clinics for those who qualify, according to the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH).

Appointments can be made through <https://covidvaccine.umc.edu> or by calling the COVID-19 hotline at 877-978-6453.

Booster shots help maintain your immunity, which may decrease over time.

You can get a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine if you are:

- Fully vaccinated with two shots of Pfizer, AND
- It's been at least 6 months since your last shot of Pfizer.

AND you fall into one of the following categories:

- Adults aged 65 years and older, OR
- Long-term care facility residents, OR
- Adults aged 18 and older with certain underlying medical conditions (see <https://msdh.ms.gov/boosters>), OR
- Adults aged 18 and older in certain occupations that increase their risk of exposure (see <https://msdh.ms.gov/boosters>).

Third or additional shots of Pfizer and Moderna for people with weakened immune systems are also available at county health departments.

**Please note:** COVID-19 vaccines are available at numerous other providers statewide, including pharmacies and clinics. Go to <https://www.vaccines.gov/search> to find locations near you where you can receive first and second COVID-19 shots as well as additional COVID-19 shots for weakened immune systems and boosters.

MSDH also has first and second shots of COVID-19 vaccine available at county health departments.

Please remember to bring your COVID-19 vaccine card to your appointment, if you have received prior shots of COVID-19 vaccine.

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