

Bolton native to return for homecoming performance

The Bolton News

When St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bolton celebrates its annual Homecoming at 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 12, the Jubilee Singers Alumni Choir will be there to perform. St. Mary's Church, the Jubilee Singers Alumni Choir and the group's director, each have intensely interesting histories and stories to tell.

The group's director, Dr. Bobby G. Cooper, now age 82, will be on hand for the event.

Cooper, who was born and raised in Bolton, never knew his mother.

"She died when I was nine months old," said Cooper. "I was raised by an aunt and uncle. They were very poor, but we always had the best of everything. My aunt worked for the Graves and Graham families in Bolton, and they were very kind. One of the families gave my aunt their old piano, so that I could learn to play. While I was attending the Bolton Colored School, my aunt sent me to Tougaloo to study music there. She found the money, somehow, to send me on the bus to Jack-



Photo courtesy of Hinds Community College

son for lessons at Tougaloo. It is just incredible how everything worked out."

Cooper went on to graduate from Tougaloo College. He later studied at the University of Illinois, University of Colorado (where he received his doctorate) and Chicago Musical College.

Cooper's first teaching job was at Hawkins High School near Hattiesburg, where he taught music and biology. Hawkins High is where he

met and fell in love with the school's business teacher, Della Larkin. The two married and have three children: Christopher, Demetria and LaCarole.

Cooper arrived at Utica Junior College in 1972 to teach in the music department and to work with America's first black opera company, Opera/South. Utica Junior College merged with Hinds Jr. College in 1982, and is known today as the Utica Campus of Hinds Communi-

ty College. It is the oldest of Hinds CC's six campuses. It retains its Historically Black College and University designation and traditions.

In 1982, Dr. Cooper revived the Jubilee Singers and a unique style of singing popular during the 1920s. The group has performed in many venues throughout the United States.

Dr. Cooper and the Jubilee Singers toured Italy in 1999.

"Oh, the tour of Italy was very exciting. Before we went, we were so worried about how we were going to raise enough money. We didn't know if we could raise enough to pay for those wonderful young men to have that experience. I never shall forget that one day Dr. Muse says to me, 'Well, Dr. Cooper, you haven't been to see me yet. Come sit down and tell me what you think this trip is going to cost. I really want to see these young men go to Italy. The Jubilee Singers have represented the college so well.'" Cooper says that after Dr. Muse heard the amount, he went straight to the office of Adam Jenkins, who was Business Manag-

Continued on page 3

Gaddis & McLaurin, a mainstay in Bolton and Hinds County for 150 years

Susalyn Bennett

From seed and feed to hardware and lumber, from tools and gloves to wind chimes and handbags, the displays and shelves at Gaddis & McLaurin are filled with a wide variety of items the store's customers want and need. The friendly and knowledgeable staff provide helpful answers and solutions each and every day. It has been this way for the family-owned business for 150 years.

The store initially opened in 1871, when Bolton was little more than a station stop on the Vicksburg and Jackson Railway. The business played an important role in the history and growth of the town. It was originally situated across the street from the current location. On January 28, 1948, the original store burned to the ground. A photograph hanging in the office at Gaddis & McLaurin shows the building as it stood about one year before it was destroyed by fire. The store reopened immediately following the fire, in the space it occupies now.

To view more photographs, past and present, of the Gaddis & McLaurin store, visit the extended online edition of The Bolton News, pages 4 and 5, available at www.BoltonMS.com.



Special to The Bolton News

This photo of the old store hangs in the office of Gaddis & McLaurin today. It was taken in 1947, one year before the old store burned down in 1948.

Bolton hires company to assist with reconciliations

The Bolton News

During the August 17, 2021, meeting of Bolton's Mayor and Board of Aldermen, a representative of BBI, Inc. of Flowood described for the Board the services his company can provide to assist the town in reconciling its monthly bank statements and reconciling the bank accounts to its books. The town uses a software system purchased in a prior year from BBI.

The BBI representative stated that the first month to be addressed will be the month following the month for which the reconciliation steps were last completed in Bolton's computer system. The exact month was not yet known, but it appears that it was either in 2017 or 2018. If hired, BBI would charge \$70 per hour for each hour they spend working on the project.

When asked about the audit being performed by Windham and Lacey, town clerk Shelia Williams stated that the firm has said it cannot complete the audit of the town's records until the reconciliations are completed.

Following a lengthy and spirited time of questions and discussion, the Board voted to hire BBI to provide the services described, with the stipulation that the Board has the option to terminate the process at any time. BBI's representative confirmed that the process can be stopped at any time.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m. at the Clifton "Buddy" Henderson Municipal Building at 202 Bolton Raymond Road. The public is invited to attend.

BEEMS wins trophy for school kick-off



Special to The Bolton News

During the Hinds County School District's convocation, Bolton Edwards Elementary and Middle School (BEEMS) won the kick-off competition. The staff is pictured with their trophy.

**FIND MORE
NEWS FROM
BOLTON ONLINE!**

www.BoltonMS.com



EST. 1871

GADDIS & MCLAURIN



Hardware, Feed, Seed, And everything you need!



COME SEE US!

104 MADISON STREET, BOLTON MS 39041

601.866.2279



**Hand-selected Certified Angus Beef steaks
seasoned to perfection and seared to your
preferred temperature**

Other specialties include chargrilled duck, redfish, pork chops,
chicken, salads, Emily's Famous Pimento Cheese,
and a variety of heavenly desserts.

**Thurs. through Sat., 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dine-in or Take-out
200 Depot Street, Bolton MS
601-502-4404**

Continued from page 1

Bolton native to return for homecoming performance

er at the time, and told Jenkins, "Put that money in Dr. Cooper's budget. They are going to Italy!"

"We toured and performed all over Italy: Florence, Milan and other places. We sang for the Pope in Vatican City! It was just incredible and unforgettable."

During his 45-year tenure at the college, Dr. Cooper received numerous awards, influenced the lives of many students, advanced to Chairman of the Humanities Division and Coordinator of Music and Art, and has a building on campus that bears his name: the Bobby G. Cooper Fine Arts Center. He retired from Hinds CC in Utica in 2018. His wife, Dr. Della Larkin Cooper, who chaired the Department of Business at Jackson State University, has retired, as well. The couple live in Jackson, not far from their five grandchildren, whom they enjoy seeing every week.

Were it not for the pandemic, on Sundays, Cooper would still be found at the piano at Asbury Methodist Church in Bolton, where he attended church as a child. Pre-pandemic, he also served as organist for Pratt Memorial United Methodist in Jackson. Due to the pandemic, both churches are holding virtual services on-line, for the time being.

When asked about the upcoming event at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cooper said, "I will be there, but may not be conducting. My former student, long-time friend and assistant, Cedric Smith, will likely be the conductor for this performance. Cedric is an excellent musician. We have been together so long, he knows everything I know, and more. The singers are former students and Jubilee Singers who are coming from Hattiesburg, Yazoo City and all around the Metro area. They are so loyal and good to me. We keep in touch."

The annual Homecoming Eucharist with special musical offerings by The Jubilee Singers Alumni Choir will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 12, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 209 East Madison Street in Bolton.

Interim sheriff named, special election to be held

The Bolton News

On Monday, August 16, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors appointed Marshand Crisler to serve as interim sheriff of Hinds County, following Sheriff Lee Vance's death.

Crisler will serve in the position until a special election is held on November 2, 2021. The winner of the special election will serve the two-and-one-half years remaining in Lee Vance's term.

The deadline for candidates to qualify to be included on the ballot for the special election was September 3.

September happenings at the Bolton library



Special to The Bolton News

Special to The Bolton News

The Bolton Book Club resumes this month. To participate, stop by the library to get a copy of this month's book. Then, on Tuesday, September 14, at 10 a.m., the Bolton Book Club will meet under the pavillion at the Jimmie R. Lewis, Sr. Park Plaza on Bolton-Raymond Road (across from Town Hall). Attendees must wear a mask, and the meeting will be socially-distanced.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month. JHLS library cards are free to residents of Hinds County. Residents are encouraged to get their card during the sign-up month.

Bolton Friends of the Library (FOL) is a group of citizens who love and support the library. A meeting will be held at the Library on Tuesday, September 28, at 10 a.m. Everyone who is interested in being a Friend of the Library is invited to attend.

Bolton Virtual Story Time for preschoolers will be available online in September. Belinda Lane of Mississippi Public Broadcasting will read Bedtime for Sweet Creatures by Nikki Grimes. The story time can be found online from September 1 through September 17.

For additional information, call 601- 866-4247 or stop by the Annie T. Jeffers Library, 111 West Madison Street in Bolton. The library's website is www.JHLlibrary.org. Visitors to the library should wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Need help Getting Social Security Disability Benefits? We can help!

**FIGHTING FOR YOUR
SOCIAL SECURITY
DISABILITY BENEFITS
FOR OVER 25 YEARS!**

You Could Be Eligible To Receive:



Steady monthly income depending on your paid in amount



A lump sum payment of benefits owed from back-pay



Annual cost of living increases

- We simplify the process & strive for quick claim approval
- Starting the process is easy and takes only minutes to complete


855-683-0101

Helping thousands get the benefits they deserve

Bill Gordon & Associates, a nationwide practice, represents clients before the Social Security Administration. Member of the TX & NM Bar Associations. Mail: 1420 NW St Washington D.C. Office: Broward County, FL. Services may be provided by associated attorneys licensed in other states.

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

For advertising and to submit content, call Susalyn Bennett, 601-594-2250, or email susalyn@theclintoncourier.net

Gaddis & McLaurin, a mainstay in Bolton for 150 years!

Established in 1871, Gaddis & McLaurin has served Bolton and the surrounding area for 150 years. In addition to lumber, hardware, tools, building supplies and plumbing fixtures, the store stocks a wide variety of feed for cattle, horses, farm animals, pets, wildlife and fish; seed; gardening and farming needs; boots, gloves and handbags; scented candles; honey and more.



Gaddis & McLaurin tries to anticipate customers' needs and have plenty on hand for them. Pictured, Josh Young and Anthony Johnson with pallets of water purchased when reports were being issued that Hurricane Ida could cause power outages lasting for days.



Gaddis & McLaurin has been family owned and operated for 150 years. Pictured, left to right, are current family members Kendall Garraway, Ted Kendall, III and Ted Kendall, IV



Gladys Laurin and her mom, Suzanne Coggins. Suzanne joined G&M in 2018.



Gaddis & McLaurin's adorable mascot, Gladys Laurin.



Bolton's iconic water tower and a view of Madison Street. Gaddis & McLaurin is on the right.





Joyce Jimenez is G&M's resident expert on gardening, feed, tools and more. She has been with Gaddis & McLaurin since 1998.



Office Manager Lynda Bonner and Resident Mr. Fix-it-all genius Frank Tullos. Frank joined G&M in 2011 and Lynda came on board in 2014.



This antique scale was used thousands of times back in the day.



Aaron Johnson joined Gaddis & McLaurin in 2008. He manages the dock and warehouse.



Photographer unknown

This photo of Main Street Bolton was taken around 1901. It was made into a postcard that was sold in local area shops. On the left, is the old Gaddis & McLaurin Store.



Store Manager Pier Roy and Owner Kendall Garraway.

New Teachers, New School Year

All photos special to The Bolton News

“Dear students and parents, we hope you are as pleased as we are, to resume in-person classes at BEEMS. We look forward to a productive year, filled with learning and positive experiences. We are excited to welcome nine new teachers to our team for the 2021-22 school year. Go Rangers!”

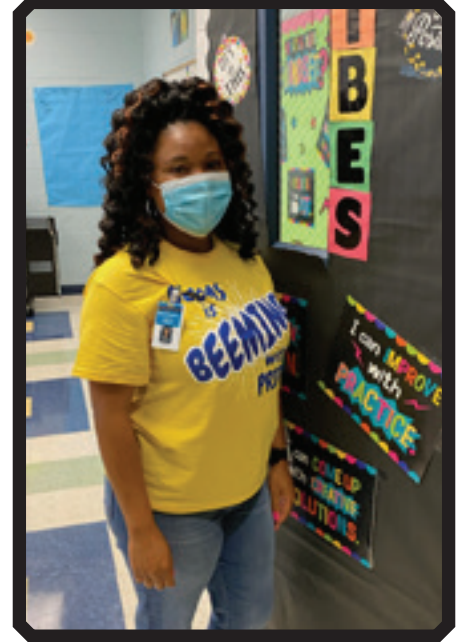
Ms. Williams and
Mr. Jones



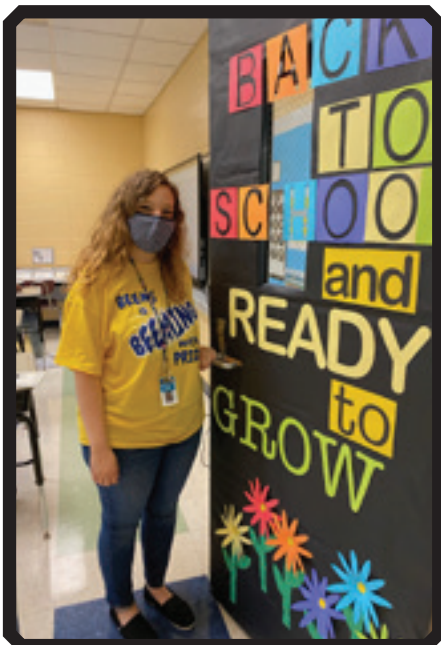
Lashum Williams, Principal Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School



George Jones, Asst. Principal Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School



Sherill Tate, 5th Grade



Abigail Parker, 4th Grade



Antoinettia Wilkerson, Interventionist



Janae Mack, Pre-K



Jennifer Bailey, Kindergarten



Kayla Bilbo, 7th Grade



Kourtney Bailey, 6th Grade



Sharilynn McFarland, Exceptional Services



Shelia Johnson, 5th Grade

Elect **Reginald** **THOMPSON**



As Sheriff I will:

- Bring integrity to the Sheriff's Department
- Increase Deputy Patrol Visibility
- Develop Patrol Management to reduce response time
- Collaborate with other Law Enforcement agencies to target high crime areas



Personal Information:

- Lifelong Resident of Hinds County.
- Member of Little Bethel CMC Church.
- Married to Stephanie Thompson. We have four children: Antonio, Katie, Deanna and Chancellor.
- 41 years of Law Enforcement Experience.
- Decorated veteran. Served three deployments.

**“I want to continue to carry the torch that
Sheriff Lee Vance started.”**

New flavors get thumbs up



Susalya Bennett

The new flavors of shakes and teas at Bolton Nutrition on Madison Street get two thumbs up from customers. Pictured, left to right, are Shannon Williams, Johnny Lewis and Jean Shinard.

Candidates for Hinds County Sheriff Special Election

On November 2, 2021, a special election will be held to elect a new Hinds County Sheriff. The qualifying deadline for individuals seeking the office was September 3, 2021.

Following is a list of qualified candidates for Hinds County Sheriff, supplied by the office of the Hinds County Circuit Clerk:



Reginald Thompson
Brandon Caston
Marshand Crisler
Colendula Green
Beverly Harris-Williams
Tyree Jones
Cheryl Matory
Torrence D. Mayfield
Leon Seals
Richard Spooner
Leslie Charles Tannehill, Jr.
Eric T. Wall
Ather West, Sr.

Voters in District 5 of Hinds County will also be voting for District 5 Constable

DENTAL Insurance

If you've put off dental care, it's easy to get back on track. Call Physicians Mutual Insurance Company now for inexpensive dental insurance. Get help paying for the dental care you need. Don't wait.

Getting back to the dentist couldn't be easier!

CALL TODAY
1-866-835-3416
Dental50Plus.com/92

Get your
FREE 
Information Kit



Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds: B438, B439 (GA: B439B). 6208-0721

GENERAC®

**Prepare for
power outages
with a Generac
home standby
generator**

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
601-460-0256

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer – Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

