



# THE Bolton NEWS

## Bolton family returns home to celebrate



Special to The Bolton News

Pictured (l to r) are Alvin Evans, Wendy Thomas, Poncho Thomas, Pearlie Evans, Ray Evans, Timothy Evans and Charlette Evans.



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Pictured (l to r) are Floyd Davis, Debra Davis, Shri Green, Gladys Johnson, Floyd Burns, Betty Burns, Alicia McKinney, Felicia Jones, Edgar Jones and Niehaus McKinney.



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Floyd Davis, Shri Green, Felicia Jones, Gladys Johnson, Floyd Burns, Debra Davis and Betty Burns; and back row: Edgar Jones, Alicia McKinney and Niehaus McKinney.

By Shirley Burns

Descendants of one of the oldest families in the Bolton community recently returned home from several states throughout the U.S. to celebrate the memories of their deceased ancestors.

The West/Burns families came from Arkansas, California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Tennessee, and, of course, were joined by the Mississippi family members.

The celebration was held at the home of the late Cleveland and Maggie West in the Pleasant Hill Community of Bolton. They began on Friday evening with a meet and greet, a wine sampling time, and a sit-down dinner, which included a fish fry.

Saturday morning began with the journey to the Bolton Cemetery (in the rain) where all nine of their original generation, plus others, were buried. They proceeded to tidy up the cemetery, then led a solemn ceremony by placing flowers and sharing memories and expressions of love for each deceased member buried there. The visit to the cemetery was the main reason for their coming to the old hometown of their ancestors on this particular day and time.

Most amazing was the fact that each of the deceased ancestors lived to between



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Lynette Thomas, Franchetta Honer, Wendy Thomas, Alvin Evans and Timothy Evans; and back row: Pearlie Evans, Charlette Evans, Poncho Thomas, Ray Evans and Willie Lynum.

ninety and one hundred years of age (except one), and one family member present at the celebration is currently ninety-four.

After the memorial celebration, they all returned to the Pleasant Hill community, where Cleveland and Maggie West and most of the siblings resided for many years. They all sat down to reminisce of precious memories.

Later, they began preparation for a fun-filled evening, which they called "Celebrating Our Ancestors Under the Stars." That celebration went late into the night and, for some, all night. The celebration included a meal of BBB (Best Bolton Barbeque) with all the trimmings, a fashion extravaganza of African attire, line dancing, and a humongous bonfire. Others from the community were invited to join the celebration.

They shared much love and fellowship, even while wearing their masks, and, to this date, they say they have not had a report of any outbreak of the virus among the family members, "all praises to God."

Sunday ended with a family-style brunch, and they departed for their various homes. They say the weekend of fun, fellowship, love and memories will forever be etched in the hearts and minds of the younger West and Burns generation from Bolton, Mississippi.

## Central Hinds Academy holds reading fair

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Central Hinds Academy held their 2022 reading fair at the school on January 19. Following the evaluation of students' projects, awards were given for first, second and third place in each category. Awards were also given to the students in each grade who achieved the "Best Portrayal of Character" by dressing as and imitating a character from their book.



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Pictured (l to r) are third grade students Bates Basye, Camden Gates, Anna Noel Munden, Patrick Shaw and Hawkins Mayo.



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Pictured (l to r) are fourth grade students, front row: Hailey Schleifer, Marleigh Teasley, Jessie Moak, Aiden Burt, Raimey Brand, Rivers Tucker and Addy Ryan Rushing; and back row: Siquem Trevino, Brayden Tackett, Levi Durham, Kempton Noble, Kinley Mashburn, Katherine Fowler and Tinsley Hays.

## February happenings at the Bolton Library



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Staying healthy begins with what one eats and drinks, and water is essential to good health.

To encourage good health, the Bolton Library and Hinds County 4-H have teamed up to host the **2022 Water Wellness Challenge**.

The Challenge will take place from February 1 to February 28. Participants are challenged to drink water (no soda or sugary drinks) every day during the month of February. Fruit or vegetables can be added to water, if desired.

**Prizes will be awarded** to each person who registers and completes the challenge.

**To register** and receive more water challenge information, call the library at 601-866-4247, or stop by the Annie Thompson Jeffers Library at 111 West Madison Street.

The Bolton Book Club will meet at the library on Tuesday, February 8, at 10 a.m. The book this month is "*The Measure of a Man, a Spiritual Autobiography*," by Sidney Poitier.

Friends of the Bolton Library will meet at the Library on Tuesday, February 15, at 10 a.m.

## January aldermen meeting available to view



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The Board of Aldermen and Mayor addressed a number of issues in their January 18 meeting. In attendance that evening were Mayor Lawrence Butler, Alderman-at-Large William Woods, Ward 1 Alderman Douglas Beard, Ward 2 Alderwoman Helen Harris, Ward 3 Alderwoman Shirley Mason, Ward 4 Alderwoman Vera Powell, Town Clerk Sheila Williams, Chief of Police Michel Williams and Municipal Attorney James Anderson, Jr.

The meeting was recorded and may be watched in its entirety. Visit: [www.bit.ly/AlderMen3](http://www.bit.ly/AlderMen3) to continue reading and to view the video recording of the meeting.

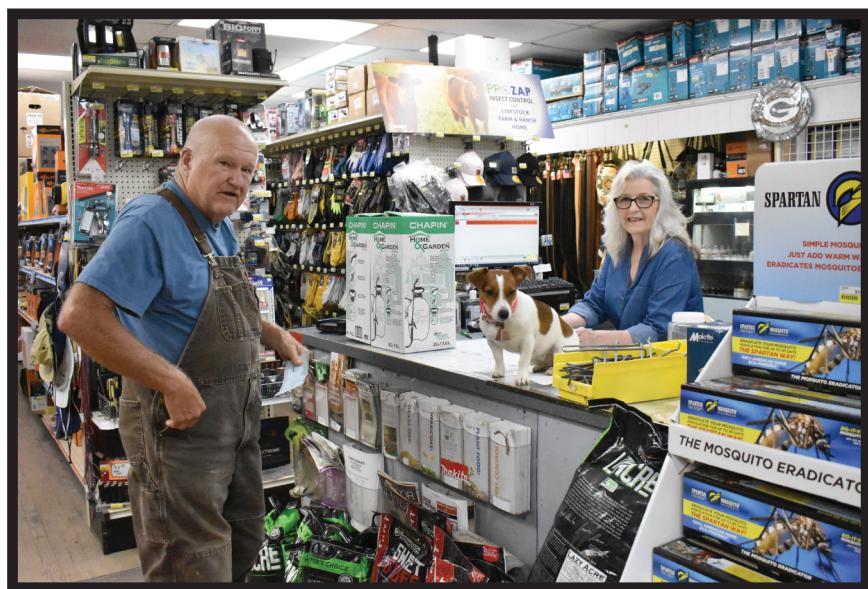
Bolton's Mayor and Board of Aldermen meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Bolton's town hall, in the Clifton "Buddy" Henderson Municipal Building located at 202 Bolton Raymond Road. The public is invited to attend.

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