



*The GTPDD office is centrally located in*

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*The GTPDD office is centrally located in*



Rupert L. "Rudy"  
Johnson

**SORRY, BOSS, BUT YOUR STAFF  
HAS STOLEN YOUR COLUMN THIS  
ISSUE!**

Readers. . . .

Our Fearless Leader celebrated a birthday in November. And, his loyal, dedicated, devoted staff planned a luncheon in honor of the occasion.

Unfortunately, it could not be a surprise, as he, like Santa, can divine what is going on! He reluctantly granted permission for "something simple".

His employees brought their favorite dishes to enhance the Hamburger Cookout celebration.

Some of our members joined us for this



And, many, many thanks to the PDD Staff

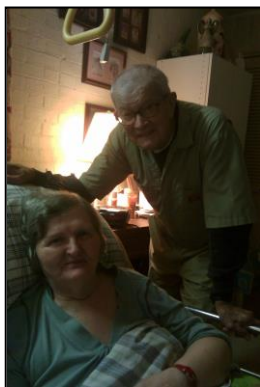


## Aging...



### FOR BETTER OR WORSE---- SOME PEOPLE REALLY MEAN IT!!!

(Submitted by GTPDD Caregiver Relief Staff)



Mr. Charles Jordan (84) is the principal caregiver for his wife of 53 years, Faye Jordan (75). Both were born in Winston County and met in Jackson, MS when she was in business school. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and Mr. Jordan has a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering, as well as two Associate Degrees in Business Administration and

Management Supervision. He taught Aviation Aircraft Safety in the military.

In 1945, Mr. Jordan joined the Marines and served six years. He then moved back home and started working for the State. He also took up side jobs that included raiding moonshiners and bootleggers! In 1961 he joined Army Aviation and traveled to Germany to train for the Berlin build-up; from 1967-1973 Mr. Jordan served in



Vietnam and was a member of one of the last troops to leave Vietnam. When the mission was over, he moved home and went back to work for the State Civil Defense.

While Mr. Jordan was serving in the military, Mrs. Jordan worked as a bank teller. Later she opened a ceramic shop where she taught

classes on how to paint and make ceramic dolls. She sewed all the clothing for her dolls and proudly displays in her home several curio cabinets full of the dolls that she has made over the years.

Six years ago Mrs. Jordan suffered a stroke which severely affected her speech and ability to perform activities of daily living. Mr. Jordan, who has congestive heart failure and a pacemaker, provides the daily care for Mrs. Jordan. A visitor in the home gets a sense of true devotion as he tries to meet her daily needs, and there is a twinkle in her eye when he talks about her, or to her!

Mr. Jordan has received Respite Services through the GTPDD Title IIIIE Program since October 2010. GTPDD staff member, Minnie Lindsey, serves as his respite caregiver. When asked about the respite services he receives, Mr. Jordan stated, "I am really happy with the program and would recommend it to anyone needing such care. My wife enjoys spending time with Minnie." Even though she cannot verbalize her thoughts, Mrs. Jordan's face seems to light up at the mention of Minnie's name.

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District administers the Caregiver Relief Program which gives primary caregivers time away from their caretaking responsibilities. This program allows relief of these responsibilities for up to 32 hours a month.

For more information regarding Respite Care, call Felicia Gant at 662-324-4650, Ext. 1127.

## Loans... *Featured Business...*

Culin-Arts in downtown West Point, Mississippi is not just any old kitchen store. As its name implies, it is a hybrid of culinary products and local art. The shop is a collection of anything and everything that complements the foodie lifestyle of cooking, entertaining and eating. It is a gallery, a bakery, a coffee house and a catering facility. It is also the childhood dream-come-true of owner Valeda Carmichael.

“I started cooking on an Easy Bake Oven when I was six and basically never stopped,” Carmichael says. “I loved food and cooking and kitchen gadgets; I’ve *always* wanted my own kitchen shop.”

Almost 10 years ago, Carmichael made her dream a reality. Leaving a successful corporate food service career, she opened Culin-Arts in a tiny 10-ft wide building. The business started with a limited offering of culinary gadgets and quickly expanded to include items such as Viking cookware and solid wood carving tables. When she outgrew her “starter store”, Carmichael bought and renovated the shop’s current location on Commerce Street. Truly a labor of love, she did most of the work on the 4000 square foot building herself.

“I’d work on the building renovation early,” says Carmichael, “then run over to the shop and manage it all day, then back to the building at night.”

Her hard work paid off. Culin-Arts is one of the largest gourmet kitchen shops in the state of Mississippi. It is a foodie emporium of sorts: a mash-up of retail space, coffee shop, bakery, cooking school and art gallery. The shop stocks traditional kitchen gadgets such as cutting boards, wine keys and chef’s knives, as well as hard-to-find ingredients, table linens and gourmet coffee.

In keeping with Carmichael’s philosophy that the setting should look as good as the food tastes, Culin-Arts also carries a wide variety of products that complement indoor and outdoor entertaining. Original artwork for sale includes pitchers, mugs and server ware from Pat Gavin Pottery, oil paintings by Lee Gibson Lox and handmade jewelry from Weldon Merchant, whose craftsmanship is on display at the Smithsonian. Pieces of local woodwork and ironwork are also featured in the shop.

Carmichael added a commercial open kitchen adjacent to the shop. She wants to eventually teach cooking classes for all levels as well as bring in guest chefs. The space is also used to host special events. An outdoor breezeway with an herb garden, courtyard and additional seating make Culin-Arts a perfect venue for luncheons and parties.

Carmichael’s favorite use of the kitchen, though, is whipping up batches of her delectable desserts. Carrot cake that melts in your mouth. Honey-lemon cheesecake. And her specialty: baklava.

“Culin-Arts is constantly evolving, growing and enhancing,” says Carmichael. “But the life of the shop always goes back to the food. I love to cook. I love to try new things. I’ll cook anything! And I love to share good food and quality products with my customers.” (Submitted by Valeda Carmichael).

Culin-Arts is located at 134 Commerce Street, West Point, MS

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30-5 and Sat 10-4

Visit Culin-Arts on Facebook, email at [culinarts@bellsouth.net](mailto:culinarts@bellsouth.net) or call 662-494-8969

## Culin-Arts, West Point, Mississippi



### CULIN-ARTS

**For Indoor & Outdoor Cooking & Entertaining**

Cookware & Accessories   Kitchen Gadgets  
Tableware   Linens  
Gourmet Foods/Coffee/Tea   Lattee Da in-

## Medicaid Waiver...

### It's Christmas Time . . . .

As is their tradition at Christmas time, Case Managers in the Medicaid Waiver program launched an ambitious shopping spree—for their



clients! Many elderly



do not



have family or friends to share in the holiday spirit and Medicaid Waiver staff like to make sure they are remembered and gifted!

Staff continue in their efforts to promote services of this program. Presently, there is the capacity to serve 1400 elderly and/or disabled clients in the Golden Triangle area. If you know anyone who might qualify, please refer to Michelle Harris, RN Supervisor, at (662) 320-2001 Ext. 1138 or the Case Managers in your county:

## **Medicaid Waiver Case Managers**

### Choctaw

### Lowndes #4

#### Oktibbeha #3

Tina Gill, RN	Christy Massey, RN
Helen Smith, RN	
Rachel Embry, LSW	Emilie Hamilton, LSW
Beverly Baker, LSW	
(662)769-1063	(662)769-4109
(662)769-8584	

### Clay

### Noxubee #1

#### Oktibbeha #4

Mitzi Phelps, RN	Jana Peterson, RN
Charlotte Dowd, RN	
Stephanie Cannon, LSW	Lauren Smith, LSW
Jennifer Bridges, LSW	
(662)769-1099	(662)769-1030
(662)769-1049	



## *Planning...*

## **Maben Constructs New Town Hall**



Maben recently completed construction of a new 2,000-square foot town hall, now officially open to the public. Two (2) \$100,000 grants through the Small Municipal and Limited Population County Program provided by the Mississippi Development Authority, a \$65,000 USDA grant/loan, and \$50,000 from late Maben resident Lloyd Cummins provided the financial means to fulfill this endeavor. The Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors assisted in demolition of the original building.

The Town's former multi-  
including apartments,  
years of use adaptation, it  
created a hazard to the  
size to fulfill the needs of  
air conditioning units, and  
Act (ADA).



Application preparation

level municipal building was originally constructed for other uses,  
newspaper offices and commercial shops. Due to its age and  
was in a state of disrepair. Roof leaks caused deterioration and  
safety and health of the Town's employees. It was inadequate in  
this municipality, was costly to operate with inefficient window  
did not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities

and project administration were provided by GTPDD staff.

## ARC Update

Final presentations of the Appalachian Community Learning Projects were held at the Artesia Community Center on December 6, 2012.

Each community was asked to give an overview of its project to panels from the Rensselaerville Institute and the Appalachian Regional Commission. Participating towns in the GTPDD area were Artesia, Crawford and Louisville.

Eleven participants from Appalachian counties in Mississippi participated. Each Planning and Development District summarized the services provided in its respective The GTPDD, ECPDD and NCPDD were represented. Mr. Mike Armour, Director, and Sandra Perkins of the Tupelo ARC Regional office, as well as other state office



area.  
Mrs.

*Planning cont'd.* . . . representatives, outlined the services available for these communities.

Pictured: Mike Armour of the Tupelo Office welcomed the participants.

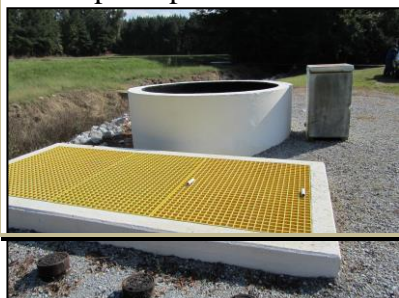
## Noxapater Completes Project

The Town of Noxapater has addressed a Mississippi of Environmental Quality (DEQ) imposed mandate by chlorinator and de-chlorinator at each of the municipality's two (2) sewage lagoons. Previously, the wastewater treatment system did not meet the minimum the MDEQ for releasing discharge into the environment.



Department  
installing a  
  
Town's  
standards of

Noxapater provides sewer service for 252 customers. In



residential customers, this county school with 512 faculty, several industries, a personal care home and commercial businesses. The sewer system consists of 2-one cell lagoons with a system of wetlands in a gravel medium for the final treatment. The purpose of disinfection in the

addition to  
includes a  
students and

treatment of wastewater is to substantially reduce bacteria and microorganisms in the water discharged back into the environment, in order to reduce the threat to health of humans and wildlife and environmental safety. Chlorination remains the most common form of wastewater disinfection due to its low cost and long-term effectiveness; however, because residual chlorine is toxic to aquatic species and the environment, the treated effluent must also be chemically de-chlorinated, adding to the complexity and cost of treatment. Unable alone to undertake a project of this magnitude, the Town received financial assistance from the Mississippi Development Authority through a Small Municipal and Limited Population County Grant of \$100,000 and a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Emergency Public Facilities project.

Application preparation and project administration were provided by GTPDD staff.



## *Planning cont'd. . .*

### HOUSING DEPARTMENT

**LOWNDES & EUPORA:** Golden Triangle Planning & Development District submitted five (5) Homeowner Rehabilitation/Reconstruction (HOME) applications to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) in September. MDA conducted site visits in November for two of the applications, and award notices were mailed to the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors and the City of Eupora in December. Congratulations to Lowndes and Eupora on their awards. These projects will be started in January, 2013.

**CLAY:** Contractors for three houses have been approved, and work is scheduled to begin as soon as the asbestos removal process is complete.

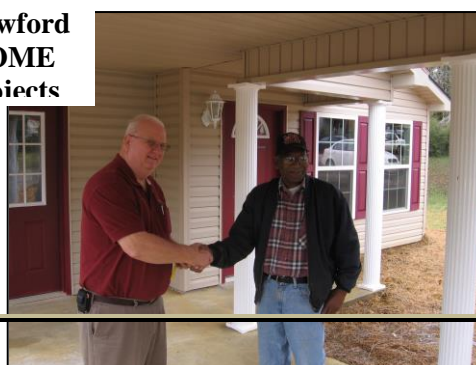


#### **MACON & CRAWFORD:**

The City of Macon and the Town of Crawford were funded under the 2010 HOME program for reconstruction of substandard

housing units. One house has been completed in Macon and the homeowner was handed the keys in time to move in for Christmas! A second house is near completion, with two others under construction. Two mobile homes in Crawford were completed in December and one house is about 75% complete.

#### **Crawford HOME Projects**



Spann  
Family  
Member,  
Mayor Bob  
Boykin,



Mayor Rob Roykin handing keys



*WIA*  
*(Workforce Investment Act)* . . .

## **TOO** *(Yes,*

The Year  
counties  
Career  
given an  
employers



## **GOOD TO BE TRUE?** *what's the catch?)*

2012 saw youth in Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston secure job training and temporary jobs, thanks to WIA Counseling to (C2C) offered by the GTPDD. After classroom instruction, youth are opportunity to train in selected jobs, proving to themselves and

With salaries and workers' comp funded by GTPDD, employers suffer no expense. Businesses interview the youth applicants, so they have choices in whom they hire, supervise, train, mold and mentor. It is not unusual for businesses to retain youth trainees as permanent employees.

Often, when advised of this opportunity, a business owner or manager will respond "What's the catch? This sounds too good to be true." The truth is: there is no catch; there is no fine print. It is simply a win-win situation for youth and businesses. Youth get a chance to practice skills learned during training. A business is given a free employee.



If you own a business or know management staff who could benefit from the C2C work program, call Mitzi Lawrence, 662-324-7860 ext. 1128 for more information.



Kelley Peeples, participant in the  
WIA  
Counseling to Career Youth Program.

## *WIA cont'd.* . . . **YOUTH TRIBUTES**

Twenty-four (24) youth participated in the Counseling to Career program during the Fall 2012 session. Pictured below are a few youth who took advantage of this training opportunity, along with their statements of their future plans.



Kelley Peeples, Choctaw  
Jobsite: Ackerman Early Head Start  
*Desires to obtain Child Development Associates Certificate and work at Ackerman Early Head Start*



Makarios Sears, Oktibbeha  
Jobsite: SuperValu  
*Has enlisted in the U. S. Navy, Training scheduled for Feb. 2013*



Tim Peterson, Winston  
Jobsite: Dirt Cheap  
*Bought tires for his truck with first paycheck, Hopes for full-time employment*



Brittany Nikolaisen, Choctaw



Alex Miller, Winston



Jamie Griffin, Winston

Jobsite: CJ's Café

*Spent majority of her money helping those less fortunate—bought a lady in need a pair of shoes. Desires full time employment*

Jobsite: Cash Saver

*Saved money for studio equipment, plans to attend audio music school in Arizona*

Jobsite: Vowell's Market

*Newly-wed – saving money for the future. Desires fulltime employment*

## **SEEKING..... COUNSELING TO CAREER PARTICIPANTS NEW SESSION STARTING JANUARY 2013**

**If you know a youth:**

**21 years or younger**

- **Not currently enrolled in school**
- **Motivated and looking for a job**

***Tell them about the WIA C2C Program at the GTPDD!***

***Choctaw and Winston: Teresa Shumaker 662-324-7860 ext. 1125***

***Oktibbeha and Webster: Jennifer Odom 662-324-7860 ext. 1155***

## **SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTER**

**COLUMBUS**  
**1522 Gardner Boulevard**

The Senior Enrichment Center in Columbus had a busy 2012! Roughly 1600 people used the Center for scheduled functions such as Bridge, Bunko, Sr. Band, Country Line Dance, Parkinson's Support Group, MUW Retirees meetings, and such. This figure does not reflect the number of drop-by visits from those who like to come by and chit-chat! (In addition, GTPDD staff used the building for in-service training, team meetings, Advisory Board meetings, or just to catch up on paperwork.)

Patrons of the Center have commented numerous times about how fortunate Columbus is to have such a nice facility for Senior Adults and how thankful they are that the GTPDD has provided this service for them.

The newest addition at the Center is Tuesday Game Day for those who don't have a regular "group" to join. Seniors will bring games, puzzles, or whatever they choose and teach the others how to play. Alternate Tuesdays, from 1:30 until 3:30, is the 2013 schedule for Tuesday Game Day.

MUW Retirees



If you are a Senior and would like to join in the fun, contact Carla Guyton



Parkin  
son's  
Suppo

## *Staff Anniversaries* Staff members that have

### **OCTOBER**

### **NOVEMBER**

Melody Benseid	14 years	Beverly
Baker	9 years	
Chris Bingham	10 years	Alicia
Barry	11 years	
Noral Carroll	14 years	Mary
Byron	11 years	
Lula Eiland	14 years	Jewell
Fair	11 years	
Martie Gibson	13 years	Glenda
Fason	5 years	
Willer Glenn	7 years	Jessica
Foxx	12 years	
Janie Harris	14 years	Earline