

PINETOP

Mississippian oldest Grammy winner



WESTMINSTER

Non-glamorous shar-pei jolts show



The Vicksburg Post.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011 • 50¢

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EVERY DAY SINCE 1883

SPORTS



ROUNDBALL

PCA boys win, WC girls fall

B1

WEATHER

Tonight: partly cloudy, lows near 50
Wednesday: mostly sunny, highs in the lower 70s
Mississippi River: 17.1 feet
 Fell: -0.4 foot
 Flood stage: 43 feet

A9

DEATHS

- Minnie Mae Devore
- Elnora Jackson
- Mary Kilby Hickox Whitney

A9

TODAY IN HISTORY

1820: American suffragist Susan B. Anthony is born in Adams, Mass.

1879: President Rutherford B. Hayes signs a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

1898: The U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blows up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

1944: Allied bombers destroy the monastery atop Monte Cassino in Italy.

2006: Vice President Dick Cheney accepts blame for accidentally shooting a hunting companion, calling it "one of the worst days of my life."

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House passes payday lending, but keeps it

By The Associated Press

JACKSON — Supporters say the final version of a payday lending bill that passed the Mississippi House on Monday could reduce consumers' out-of-pocket expenses for short-term loans, but the fight might not be over.

Even though the measure passed on a 76-43 vote, opponents held it for the possibil-



Rep. George Flagg

ity of more House debate before it can move to the Senate. Foes say it does too little to stop payday lenders from trapping consumers in a cycle of debt.

"You know that the poor are being taken advantage

of in this state," said Rep. Robert Johnson, D-Natchez.

Under current law, check-cashing companies can charge fees equal to 572 percent annual interest rate in Mississippi, one of the poorest states in the nation.

Leaders of the Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist churches have lobbied against payday lending practices.

A person receiving a

payday loan in Mississippi writes a check for the amount borrowed, plus a fee that currently can be up to \$21.95 per \$100 borrowed. Loans of up to \$400 are allowed. The lender can cash the check if the borrower fails to repay the loan on time. Borrowers sometimes take out multiple loans to cover their costs.

Most payday lenders now typically write 14-day loans.

On A3

• Black Caucus says education tops funding needs

The bill that passed Monday would give consumers up to 30 days to repay loans and cap fees at \$20

See Payday, Page A9.

THE SWEETEST JOB



BRYANT HAWKINS-THE VICKSBURG POST

Karley Whittington, the 11-year-old daughter of Traci and Daryle Whittington, works Monday to unload Girl Scout cookies at the Vicksburg Convention Center for her troop, 5411, to sell over the next few weeks. The Scouts will set up Saturday at Walmart from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and at Kroger from

9 a.m. until 5 p.m. In addition, beginning Feb. 26, they will walk door-to-door and sell from booths at the Outlets at Vicksburg and at the Vicksburg Mall. The revenue generated from selling cookies is going to selected area nursing homes and to help fund a Scout trip to Camp Wahi.

Fondren beefs up anti-smoking push

By Danny Barrett Jr. dbarrett@vicksburgpost.com

A push by community health advocate Linda Fondren to expand smoking restrictions on public property reached the county board Monday with a few more specifics, but little movement on the effort from local government.

Fondren's "sample ordinance" pitched to supervisors would prohibit smoking within 20 feet of doors to county-owned buildings, sports and recreation venues and at schools. State law already pro-



pects all elementary and high school grounds as Tobacco-Free Zones. The proposal also includes vehicles in its definition of "county-owned facilities."

Fondren, one of 10 finalists chosen by CNN from a worldwide pool in

'Smokers — they are respectful sometimes of their areas. ... However, if they are, then this should not really harm them.'

LINDA FONDREN
 HEALTH ADVOCATE

the cable network's 2010 Heroes Tribute for her anti-obesity efforts, said she crafted the ordinance after similar ones in Gulfport, Hattiesburg and Greenwood — the

See Fondren, Page A9.

B-17 vet flies again after nearly 70 years

By The Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — A day before his final mission

aboard a B-17 bomber in World War II, Norbert Swierz sat down on his bunk and jotted down a poem for his mother back in Michigan.

"I go so gladly to my fate, whatever it may be. That I would have you shed no tears for me," wrote the

23-year-old gunner, who had already survived the ditching of his first B-17 in the North Sea that summer of 1943.



Norbert Swierz is ready.

"Some men must die, that others must be free. And only God can say whom these shall be." The next day, Sept. 6,

1943, "Skeets" Swierz and the rest of the crew of the

See Bomber, Page A9.

GOP mocks Obama's new budget

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans are mocking President Obama's \$3.73 trillion budget for 2012 for waving feebly at historically huge federal deficits.

As if to show how it should be done, they are ready to start muscling their own package of deep cuts in domestic spending through the House.

Eager to please their conservative Tea party supporters, Republicans are championing \$61 billion in cuts to hundreds of programs for the remaining seven months of this federal fiscal year under a bill the House planned to debate today. AmeriCorps and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting would be completely erased, while deep cuts would be carved from programs for feeding poor women and children, training people for jobs and cleaning the Great Lakes.

Reductions of that magnitude this late in a fiscal year would have a jarring impact on many programs. The GOP-run House planned to approve the measure Thursday.

The proposed reductions have "show-down" written all over them. Republicans included them in a must-pass bill financing the government, which otherwise runs out of money on March 4. The Democratic-controlled Senate and Obama himself are sure to turn them down.

"We have consistently said it's not our intention to shut down this gov-

On A6

Some proposed cuts are by nickels and dimes

See Budget, Page A6.

CUTTIN' A RUG

Shady Lawn Nursing Home activities assistant Sandra Dickard, right, dances with resident Virginia Hemby to the tunes of the Wright Road Band Monday during a Valentine's Day party at the nursing home.



KATIE CARTER-THE VICKSBURG POST

Payday

Continued from Page A1.

for every \$100 borrowed, up to \$250. For loans of \$251 to \$500, the fee would be \$21.95 per \$100.

Giving a consumer longer to repay a loan would result in a lower equivalent annual percentage rate, lawmakers said.

House Banking Committee Chairman George Flaggs, D-Vicksburg, said the new fees would equal between 243 percent and 521 percent annually.

Flaggs said when he talks to people who receive payday loans, they have no problem with the service or with what they're being charged.

"Most folks that I talk to say that this is a necessary tool for them to get from one payday to another payday," Flaggs said.

Rep. John Mayo, D-Clarksdale, said the lenders are "no better than the plantation commissaries of 150 years ago.

"Being in debt is the new slavery," Mayo said

After Mayo, who is white, compared debt to slavery multiple times, Democratic Rep. Omeria Scott, who's chairwoman of the Legislative Black Caucus, objected.

Mayo stopped using the words "slave" or "slavery" but stuck to his objections "We are helping to keep people in debt by passing this bill," he said.

Mississippi has allowed payday lenders to operate in the state since 1998. Current state law expires in 2012, which means payday lenders would go out of business if legislators don't renew it before next year.

The Mississippi House and Senate passed different versions of a payday lending bill earlier this session. The House vote Monday was on the final version produced by negotiations between three members from each chamber.

Both chambers would have to agree before a bill could go to Gov. Haley Barbour. Barbour hasn't said whether he'll sign a bill.

Fondren

Continued from Page A1.

latter two of which have barred smoking in all public places, including restaurants and bars — and cited a 26 percent adult smoking rate for Warren County listed in an ongoing, nationwide behaviors study by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

"Smokers — they are respectful sometimes of their areas," Fondren said. "They are. However, if they are, then this should not really harm them because 26 percent of them smoke...74 percent of us do not do it at all. That reason is reason enough that we should have areas where we are not subject to secondhand smoke."

In December, Vicksburg officials said they'd weigh a stronger anti-smoking ordinance carefully, though Mayor Paul Winfield indicated it could encroach on privacy rights. Local restaurant operators have asked for more proof they wouldn't lose revenue if smoking is banned completely, Fondren said Monday. Health and child care facilities also appear in Fondren's draft. Privately owned River Region Medical Center barred smoking on its properties in 2007.

Enacting an ordinance of any kind on the county's books requires supervisors to hold a public hearing. Supervisors appeared satisfied with the current set of regulations, which have barred smoking for years inside such places as the courthouse and Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library. Social settings at county-maintained space at Clear Creek Golf Course and boat landings at LeTourneau and Eagle Lake weren't ruled out of the conversation if such an ordinance were put in place, supervisors said.

"We (barred it indoors) by board order — about as simple as it gets," Board President Richard George said. "It's effective. People understand it. We have taxpayers that smoke. When they get that tax receipt, it doesn't say anything about smoking or not smoking. It just says, 'Pay, or we'll sell your property.' The same people are coming in the building they already own. It doesn't take very long to walk past somebody. We've not had any complaints about that."

Sheriff's deputies have been asked in a memo issued in recent weeks to refrain from smoking when in view of the public, Sheriff Martin Pace said, adding it applies mostly to non-clerical deputies who are assigned patrol cars. The definition excludes bailiffs who are assigned to the courthouse, Pace said.

"We went smoke-free inside the jail and the (sheriff's office) building soon after I took office in 1996," Pace said. "The overwhelming majority (of the deputies) are nonsmokers."

Since 2002, 37 Mississippi cities have gone completely smoke-free in public places, including bars and restaurants, according to the Southern Science Research Center at Mississippi State University. Eleven others have done it partially, exempting bars and restaurants. Exemptions for casinos along the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi River from local smoking ordinances extend indoors.

Bomber

Continued from Page A1.

B-17 nicknamed "Bomb Boogie" took off from their base in England, but didn't make it back. Shot down and taken prisoner, Swierz would spend the rest of his war days in a POW camp and not fly in another B-17 for close to 70 years.

The opportunity came again last week, and Swierz didn't hesitate. He strapped himself into a restored Flying Fortress and held on as the four droning engines lifted the vintage bomber off a central Florida airstrip into heavy cloud cover.

"Wonderful," the grinning 90-year-old man kept saying during the 45-minute flight. "Wonderful."

Strapped into the radio operator's chair halfway back, Swierz looked around and reeled off the name of the man on his crew who occupied the same seat on his old plane. That's what he was thinking about most, the other guys.

"They're all gone now, but I still have the memories," he said. "They were all kids then, just like myself."

Swierz's flight came courtesy of the Collings Foundation, which tours the country with several planes restored to their World War II condition. More than 12,000 B-17s were manufactured for the war effort, and the Massachusetts-based charity owns one of a handful around the world that can still get off the ground. Foundation spokesman Hunter Chaney said it's important to pair the veterans with the aircraft while it's still possible.

"We're in the last throes of this generation," he said from Stow, Mass. "It's an increasing rarity that we're able to share this with our World War II veterans."

A top-turret gunner in those days — which means he poked his head up into a plastic bubble above the cockpit and blazed away on twin .50-caliber machine guns — Swierz was one of the lucky ones.

Participation in those daylight, precision bombing raids on industrial targets in Germany and occupied France was a dangerous and terrifying duty, dramatically recounted in movies such as "Twelve O'Clock High" and "Memphis Belle." Two out of three young men — their average age was 20 — who flew on those missions did not survive the war. Swierz recalls returning from one especially bad mission and going to bed in an empty barracks.

Swierz grew up in Chicago and

Michigan and was 21 when he went to Canada to join the British Civilian Technical Corps, a mercenary outfit for those who wanted to help out the British before the United States was pulled into World War II. After Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and volunteered for B-17 duty.

He flew his first mission on March 18, 1943. His luck held out until June 22 when his plane — nicknamed "Old Ironsides" — was shot up so badly it had to be ditched in the North Sea after a bombing run on a German factory. He was plucked from the sea by a British rescue boat and spent weeks in the hospital recovering from a shrapnel wound to his leg.

His 14th mission — the bombing of a ball-bearing factory in Stuttgart, Germany — would be his last. B-17 crews needed 25 successful missions to rotate home, and most didn't make it. The crew of the famous "Memphis Belle" was the first to do it in May 1943.

"Somehow or another, the Germans always knew we were coming and where we were going to bomb," Swierz said. "The German fighters were something else. They were fearless. They would come right down through the middle of our formations, scattering B-17s all over hell."

The attack on Stuttgart was a fiasco. German fighters and flak batteries battered the planes as they flew looking for a break in clouds so they could drop their bombs. Of the 338 B-17s on the mission, 45 were lost. Many ran out of gas.

"Bomb Boogie" was pounded by flak and enemy fighters soon after releasing its bombs, and the 10 young men bailed out over Stuttgart, their parachutes blooming in the gray sky. Swierz was captured immediately and spent the rest of the war in a prison camp in Austria.

Swierz and his fellow prisoners were liberated by Gen. George Patton's Third Army in May 1945. He made it home and has done a lot of living since. Wife, kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, a long military career and retirement. But his recollections of wartime duty in the B-17 have survived in fairly sharp focus.

Swierz's oldest son, Greg, said his father didn't start talking about the war in depth until about 10 years ago. His family finally persuaded him to write down the memories.

"I think it was a pretty horrific adventure," said Greg Swierz, a retired commercial pilot. "They are real heroes."

WLBT PRECISION FORECAST

BY CHIEF METEOROLOGIST BARBIE BASSETT

TONIGHT 50°
WEDNESDAY 73°

Partly cloudy tonight, lows near 50; mostly sunny Wednesday, highs in the lower 70s

WEATHER

This weather package is compiled from historical records and information provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Vicksburg and The Associated Press.

LOCAL FORECAST

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY
Partly cloudy Wednesday night, lows in the lower 50s; partly cloudy Thursday, highs in the lower 70s, lows in the upper 50s

STATE FORECAST

TONIGHT

Partly cloudy tonight, lows near 50

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY
Partly cloudy Wednesday night, lows in the lower 50s; partly cloudy Thursday, highs in the lower 70s, lows in the upper 50s

ALMANAC

HIGHS AND LOWS

High/past 24 hours..... 69°
Low/past 24 hours..... 29°
Average temperature..... 49°
Normal this date..... 50°
Record low 15° in 1982
Record high 77° in 1950

RAINFALL

Recorded at the Vicksburg Water Plant

Past 24 hours..... 0.0 inch
This month..... 1.34 inches
Total/year..... 9.55 inches
Normal/month..... 2.55 inches
Normal/year 8.02 inches

SOLUNAR TABLE

Most active times for fish and wildlife Wednesday:
A.M. Active 2:52
A.M. Most active 9:06
P.M. Active 3:20
P.M. Most active 9:35

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise today 5:48
Sunset tomorrow 5:49
Sunrise tomorrow 6:45

RIVER DATA

STAGES

Mississippi River at Vicksburg
Current: 17.1 | Change: -0.4
Flood: 43 feet
Yazoo River at Greenwood
Current: 11.8 | Change: -0.3
Flood: 35 feet
Yazoo River at Yazoo City
Current: 9.7 | Change: -0.5
Flood: 29 feet
Yazoo River at Belzoni
Current: 11.2 | Change: -0.6
Flood: 34 feet
Big Black River at West
Current: 5.5 | Change: -0.2
Flood: 12 feet
Big Black River at Bovina
Current: 9.1 | Change: -0.2
Flood: 28 feet

STEELE BAYOU

Land 64.9
River 64.1

MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORECAST

Cairo, Ill.

Wednesday 17.1
Thursday 16.4
Friday 16.4

Memphis

Wednesday 4.5
Thursday 3.4
Friday 2.3

Greenville

Wednesday 21.9
Thursday 21.2
Friday 20.5

Vicksburg

Wednesday 16.2
Thursday 15.4
Friday 14.7

The Vicksburg Post prints obituaries in news form for area residents, their family members and for former residents at no charge. Families wishing to publish additional information or to use specific wording have the option of a paid obituary.

Minnie Mae Devore

Minnie Mae Devore died Monday, Feb. 14, 2011, at River Region Medical Center. She was 95.

Mrs. Devore was born in Vaiden and had lived in Vicksburg for most of her life. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church and with local nursing home ministries. She worked as a sales representative for The Valley Department Store, Glenwood Funeral Home and Avon.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dudley A. Devore; and her son, Carleton Warfield Smith; and eight siblings.

Survivors include her son, Charles P. Rogers; two daughters, Lajuanta Jean Tate of Vicksburg and Clarice R. Blackwood of Fairhope, Ala.; 17 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Glenwood Funeral Home with the Rev. Ron Burch officiating. Burial will follow at Cedar Hill Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Pallbearers will be James Smith, John Smith, Carl Smith, Tim Smith, Steve Smith, David Smith, Kenn Tatum, Chad Rogers and James Bowers III. Honorary pallbearer is Joe Gerache Sr.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Baptist Church Building Fund, 3365 Porters Chapel Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

Elnora Jackson

Elnora Jackson died Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011, at Vicksburg Convalescent Home. She was 89.

Mrs. Jackson was a former resident of Gary, Ind., and Fort Wayne, Ind., and had lived in Vicksburg since 2005.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Flossie Butler; her husband, Walter Jackson Sr.; and two sons, Wilbur Jackson and Eugene Jackson.

She is survived by six daughters, LaTonya McIntosh, Tabitha Jackson, Mary Jackson and Katherine Jones, all of Fort Wayne, Georgia Jones of Gary and Jean Woodard of Vicksburg; four sons, Wilbur L. Williams of Gary, Ray Anthony Jackson of Fort Wayne, Artic Jackson of Riverdale, Ga., and Walter A. Jackson Jr. of Houston, Texas; a stepson, Gerald Jackson of Milwaukee, Wis.; 47 grandchildren; 60 great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Guy and Allen Funeral Home of Gary has charge of arrangements.

Mary Kilby Hickox Whitney

Mary Kilby Hickox Whitney, 1952-2011, died peacefully Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, at home, 2823 Confederate Ave., Vicksburg, MS 39180, surrounded by immediate family and following a two-year battle with cancer.

Born Sept. 7, 1952, in Washington, D.C., she grew up in Dallas and was educated at Hockaday School there, Miss Porters in Farmington Conn., Kirkland College in Hamilton, N.Y., Middlebury College, Va., and the University of Texas in Austin, as well as the Cordon Bleu cooking school in Paris. Kilby earned a B.A. in Russian language studies. She met Cliff Whit-

ney on a skiing trip to Steamboat Springs, Colo., and they were married in Washington, D.C., in 1982.

Kilby worked as a foreign intelligence analyst in the Washington, D.C., area and later as a staff scientist at Applied Research Associates in Vicksburg, where she and Cliff moved in 1995.

Kilby was a positive force in the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing her, always there with a warm smile and a story to tell. She was also a talented cook and loved to entertain family and friends. In later years, Kilby translated her love of food and people into the Bryn

Rose Inn, where she also conducted a growing business of staging weddings, dinners and associated events.

Kilby is survived by her husband, Cliff Whitney; sons, Nick, Reed and Cole Whitney; her father, Charles R. Hickox of Dallas; her brothers, Charles R. Hickox III of Afton, Va., and Gilbert P. Hickox of Dallas, and their families.

Her mother, Edith Porter, Mrs. Charles R. Hickox, predeceased her in 2008.

A service celebrating her life will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011, at First Baptist Church in Vicksburg, with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. and a reception following the ceremony at the



Mary Kilby Hickox Whitney

DEATHS

Riles FUNERAL HOME
• VICKSBURG •

Mrs. Ann Loreto
Memorial Service
to be announced at a later date

5000 Indiana Avenue
601-629-0000
www.charlesrilesfuneralhome.com

Frank I. FISHER FUNERAL HOME

Mrs. M. Kilby Whitney
Memorial Service
11 a.m. Wednesday, February 16, 2011
First Baptist Church
Visitation
10 a.m. Wednesday until the hour of service at the church
Reception following the service
Bryn Rose Inn
Interment to be announced at a later date
North Hatley, Quebec, Canada
Memorials
American Cancer Society
1380 Livingston Lane
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

Mr. Bobby Ford Parker
Arrangements to be announced

601-636-7373
1830 CHERRY STREET
www.fisherfuneralhome.net

GLENWOOD FUNERAL HOMES
• VICKSBURG • ROLLING FORK •
PORT GIBSON • UTICA • TALLULAH, LA

• Vicksburg •

Mrs. Minnie Devore
Service
11 a.m. Wednesday, February 16, 2011
Glenwood Chapel
Interment
Cedar Hill Cemetery
Visitation
9 a.m. Wednesday until the hour of service
Memorials
Trinity Baptist Church
Building Fund
3365 Porters Chapel Road
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

Mrs. Wilma Groves
Arrangements Incomplete

• Rolling Fork •

Mr. Glen Windham
Service
11 a.m. Tuesday, February 15, 2011
Rolling Fork
United Methodist Church
Interment
Mound Cemetery
Memorials
Rolling Fork
United Methodist Church
Sharkey-Issaquena Community Hospital

• Tallulah •
Crothers-Glenwood

Mr. Leonard "Pete" McKnight
Service
2 p.m. Tuesday, February 15, 2011
Parkview Baptist Church
Interment
Silver Cross Cemetery

www.GlenwoodFuneralHomes.com
601-636-1414 45 Highway 80