

Coming Up
PIKE COUNTY LIFESKILLS Center is selling chances to win three tickets to see NSYNC in Jackson. Chances are \$1 each and can be bought through Friday. For details, call 684-7543.

Spurs, Hornets Up Early
The San Antonio Spurs and Charlotte Hornets are making statements in the first round of the NBA playoffs by getting 2-0 leads.
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Weather
Today: Showers, then cloudy in the afternoon. High 70-75. Tonight: Clearing and cool. Low in the upper 40s. Wednesday: Sunny. High in the 70s. Wednesday night: Clear and cool. Low, 45. Other Forecasts, Back Page

Enterprise-Journal

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McComb, Mississippi

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Highlights

Boil-water notice, line work announced

A boil-water notice for customers served by the East Pike Water Association on Brister Store Road, Baertown Road, Highway 583 and Holmesville Road is in effect.

Jeff Brown, operator and manager of the water association said work is being done to make Brister Store Road a State Aid road, and water lines are being moved to make new tie-ins.

Brown said he believed only about 25 customers will be affected by the work, which will be going on for nearly two weeks. Customers will see some periodic water outages that he said should last about two hours, at most. Water will be cut off when a new tie-in is ready.

"The Brister Store line feeds all those roads," Brown said, adding that the area affects customers in Walthall, Pike, Lincoln and Lawrence counties where they intersect.

Customers should boil water vigorously for at least one minute before using it to drink or cook with.

Brown said he will notify customers when the work is completed.

Suit involving McComb physicians continues

A malpractice suit involving McComb physicians Dr. Tom Jeffcoat and Dr. William "Buddy" Meyer resumed today after opening statements and one witness testified in Pike County Circuit Court Monday.

The trial involves Randall McKenzie, now 20, who, in April 1994, was injured in a motorcycle wreck near his residence in the Silver Creek community. He was 13 years old at the time.

In the weeks following the accident, McKenzie had three amputation surgeries, the final operation removing his lower leg six inches below the knee. He now walks with the help of a prosthesis.

Jennifer Burkes, representing the McKenzie family, said the lawsuit sought no specific amount in damages.

Randall's mother Renee McKenzie testified Monday that after the accident and surgeries her son's social life had been affected.

She testified that the night of the accident that Jeffcoat applied a splint, but after a week, his injuries didn't improve.

Louisiana Senate OKs hunting, fishing fee bill

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — To cut a deal with Mississippi, the Louisiana Senate has unanimously approved a bill lowering the fishing fees that must be paid by out-of-state residents.

The bill, approved Monday, now goes to the House, which is expected to easily go along in an effort that will see Mississippi lower its big game license fee that must be paid by Louisiana residents.

When the Louisiana Legislature raised its nonresident fishing fee to \$110 last year, Mississippi countered by raising its nonresident deer fee to \$425.

Sportsmen from both states were screaming.

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Settlement reached in Ayers

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A \$500 million agreement to end Mississippi's 26-year college desegregation case has been signed by all sides and forwarded to federal court.

State Attorney General Mike Moore said a motion requesting approval from U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. was filed Monday afternoon. Any agreement, even if signed by Biggers, would be subject to challenge.

"All we need now is the court's approval and we're done," Moore said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "This is a very big day for us."

The agreement calls for \$246 million to be spent over 17 years on academic programs at the state's three historically black universities — Jackson State, Alcorn State and Mississippi Valley State.

Another \$75 million would go to capital improvement projects, \$70 million to public endowments and up to \$35 million in private endowments. Other programs, including summer classes for struggling students, will receive the balance.

Other monies would go to a summer program to help high school students who do not qualify for regular admission to the state's universities.

Under the settlement, a \$70 million publicly-funded endowment is to be established over 14 years and a \$35 million privately-funded endowment over seven years to benefit the black colleges.

A special board, made up of representatives of the three schools, will oversee the endowments. When the universities reach a total of 10 percent other-race enrollment and sustain that enrollment for three consecutive years, the schools will control the money.

Mississippi was sued in 1975 by the late Jake Ayers, the father of a black college student who claimed the state was neglecting historically black schools.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1992 that the state still had segregated universities, and Biggers is overseeing the long-running efforts to desegregate them.

"It's not perfect but it is settled," said U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, a plaintiff in the case who signed the proposal. "This document represents the best effort for resolving the desegregation of higher education in Mississippi."

Tom Layzell, the state's commissioner of higher education, said the proposed settlement "is intended to achieve a full, complete, and final settlement of the action, subject to approval of the district court."

The signed agreement calls for \$246 million in

(See Ayers, Back Page)

Tylertown men sentenced for church burglary

Two Tylertown men were sentenced for grand larceny and burglary of a storehouse in Anite County Circuit Court recently for breaking into the Smithdale Church of God in Christ.

Jesus Clifton Smith, 39, 1505 N. Railroad Ave., Tylertown, was found guilty of the charge of burglary of a church. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison, ordered to pay court costs and attorney's fees.

Smith also was ordered to pay restitution to the church, court costs and attorney's fees.

His brother, David Wayne Smith, 30, 523 Dana Drive, Tylertown, pleaded guilty to grand larceny and burglary of a storehouse. He was sentenced to five years in prison for grand larceny, seven for burglary of a storehouse, running concurrently.

The two reportedly took a public address system, two speakers and a drum set from the church. They also broke a

metal door during the break-in.

Here are other court sentences handed down:

• Veronica Garner, no age or address available, pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of welfare fraud.

Circuit Judge Forrest A. Johnson sentenced her to one year in the Anite County jail, ordered her to pay a \$500 fine, court costs and attorney's fees.

The sentence will be suspended upon payment of the fine, court costs and

fees, and Garner will be placed on misdemeanor probation.

Garner allegedly failed to report her income from B.C. Rogers in order to receive more food stamps than what she would have been entitled to had she filed the correct information.

Garner received \$570 worth of food stamps illegally.

• Jerry Bernard Bell Jr., 223 Church

(See Burglary, Back Page)



Strolling under the magnolias

A pedestrian walks past a magnolia tree in full bloom on Commonwealth Avenue recently in Boston, as temperatures reached nearly 80 degrees. Here, a cold front moved into the state overnight bringing slightly cooler temperatures and much-needed rain. See forecasts, page 12.

U.S. arms sale to Taiwan irks China

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is offering Taiwan a variety of military equipment, including submarines, to face off a Chinese threat, while deferring sales of the Iron Tiger tanks, said a senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official added that China could decrease the chances of Taiwan getting the Agilis system if Beijing becomes less aggressive militarily.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhang Qiyue said: "Washington must exercise prudence on the question of arms sales to Taiwan so as not to create new harm for relations." She said the arms sales will "seriously undermine China's sovereignty, interfere in China's internal affairs and will give rise to tension across the Taiwan Straits."

made clear that future sales to Taiwan of the state-of-the-art Agilis system still were possible given China's recent arms buildup.

"We think there is nothing in this package for China to fear," said a senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official added that China could decrease the chances of Taiwan getting the Agilis system if Beijing becomes less aggressive militarily.

(See Taiwan, Back Page)