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HIGHLIGHTS

Gloster veteran in MPB documentary

JACKSON — Doyle Whitehead of Gloster is among six veterans featured in Mississippi Public Broadcasting's original documentary titled "Mississippians in Vietnam: A Shared Experience," premiering at 8 p.m. Thursday on MPB Television. An encore presentation will air at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

The other veterans are Charles Brown of Hattiesburg, James Young of Jackson, Rep. Manly Barton of Moss Point, Joseph Pierce of Ocean Springs and Rep. Elton "Mac" Huddleston of Pontotoc.

"So, I left Easter Sunday of '66 and went to Vietnam assigned to 7th Air Force headquarters in Saigon, and we had a little operations detachment," Whitehead said. "The Air Force had a two star general that was in charge of this Agent Orange spray that they were using as a defoliant. We flew him by helicopter a lot of times to the areas where they were spraying. And this stuff was so bad, it was so strong. It just turned a dense forest into barren land."

Daylight Saving ended at 2 a.m.

Daylight Saving Time ended at 2 a.m. this morning, putting all of the Central Time Zone back on Standard Time. Clocks should have been set back one hour in preparation for today. Anyone who did not turn back the clock will be early for church or any other appointments.

DEATHS

Joseph Simmons, 77
Ellis Warren, 62
Earl O. Wicker, 96

A3

OUTSIDE

Today

Mostly cloudy
High: 83
Low: 65
Rain: None
Wind: S, 5

A2

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Recreation forum set

BY CLAY RUSSELL
ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

McComb residents will have the chance Tuesday to share their views about what recreational facilities their community needs.

A community forum organized by Mayor Whitney Rawlings especially for residents of east McComb and Burglund is 5:30 p.m. at the Higgins Middle School gym.

Pastor Todd Foster of The Well church will help facilitate the discussion.

"I want to hear from the citizens what they want for their neighborhoods regarding recreation for their children," Rawlings said. "Not what (the) mayor wants or selectmen want, but what they want."

Recreational facilities in general, and a proposed gym at Martin Luther King Jr.

Park specifically, have figured as debate topics in most city board meetings for over a year.

The mayor and selectmen have sparred over whether to direct money to an MLK gym, the need for new lighting at the McComb Sports Park, building a new gym at the Boys & Girls Club, and other recreation-related topics.

"I'm hoping for a great

outcome," said Rawlings. "(The people's) opinion matters."

He said he received guidance from McComb School District superintendent Dr. Cederick Ellis on the gathering of community input, which Rawlings considers "the piece I believe has been missing up until now."

He added, "We'll see how the community responds."

'I'm hoping for a great outcome. (The people's) opinion matters.'

Mayor Whitney Rawlings

On planned recreation forum

Living on the front lines

Ranger describes battles of faith, fury in Iraq

BY ERNEST HERNDON
ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

On June 18, ex-Special Forces missionary David Eubank was on the front lines in Mosul when a private with the Iraqi federal police got word of five civilians trapped in a building controlled by ISIS.

Eubank had already participated in numerous death-defying rescues. One, in which he dashed through ISIS gunfire to pull out a little girl, made international news this summer.

But this situation seemed hopeless. Eubank admitted to his colleagues he was afraid.

"I've never told people I was afraid till later. This day was different," Eubank recounted to supporters — including many from southwest Mississippi — at a reception in Covington, La., this past Tuesday.

But the private, a man named Zuhair, said he would not leave the people there to die. So off they went toward the building, the ruins of a Pepsi plant surrounded on three sides by ISIS.

They got inside only to encounter a floor covered in empty Pepsi cans. Not even the most skillful Green Beret could get across that without making a racket.

Eubank took a deep breath and prayed silently, "ISIS, you cannot see, hear or stop us." Then, "I ran across — and they never saw us."



SUBMITTED

Eubank, right, and Zuhair carry wounded Iraqi civilian from the rubble of a ruined Pepsi plant in Mosul, Iraq, this past June.

Eubank, Zuhair and their companions found four wounded people in the building — including a woman with a compound leg fracture and a little girl in a state of shock — but ISIS fighters were so close they could hear their voices.

Outside in a courtyard flanked by a low wall were more than 70 dead civilians — and one live one, a woman who mouthed to them for help.

Since the courtyard was guarded by ISIS sniper fire, Eubank prayed to God to take the woman since rescue appeared hopeless. But Zuhair insisted he would not

leave her to die.

Eubank prayed again, and Zuhair noticed wire running along the ceiling. They cut a length of wire and sent the little girl, who was small enough to keep behind the wall, to take it to the immobilized woman, who had been lying amid carnage for three days and nights without food or water.

The woman wrapped one end of the wire around her wrist and her rescuers dragged her slowly across the rubble to the building. Eubank and his partners then managed to remove all five wounded people from

the rubble and take them to safety.

At the Covington gathering, Eubank showed a video of the rescue. The moral, he said, was that God could use a Muslim Iraqi private and a traumatized little girl to accomplish His will even when it seemed impossible.

Dr. Shannon Allison, who hosted Eubank's reception at his Covington home, is also a former Green Beret who served in the Army Rangers with Eubank and later with his mission organization, the Free Burma Rangers.

SEE RANGERS, PAGE A10

Swinging in downtown McComb

BY CLAY RUSSELL
ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

The State Theater in downtown McComb will swing and sway Tuesday evening when the Pike County Arts Council presents an evening of Big Band music as part of its fall performance series.

The 16-member Swing 101 ensemble from Hammond, La., will play standards from the 1930s through 1970s in their first-ever McComb concert.

Arts Council president Christopher Hart said that Swing 101 members are all professional musicians, most of them Southeastern Louisiana University alumni.

They will be accompanied Tuesday by a lineup of local vocalists, including Kelly Parker, Michael Guttuso and Hart himself.

The concert is 7 p.m. Admission is free for Arts Council members and \$10 for non-members. Memberships are \$60 for an individual and \$150 for a family, and can be purchased Tuesday at the theater.

Upcoming concerts include The Deciduous Trio Nov. 14 and Grammy nominee and McComb native Vasti Jackson on the 21st.



SUBMITTED

The 16-member Swing 101 ensemble brings its repertoire of Big Band tunes to the State Theater at 7 p.m. Tuesday in a concert sponsored by the Pike County Arts Council.

N. Pike mulls year's ratings

BY MACK SPENCER
ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

North Pike school trustees got a frank assessment Thursday of the district's performance on the latest accountability ratings.

District Curriculum Coordinator Glenda Leonard gave an overview of the results, starting with performance on district goals.

North Pike has increased student performance each year, she said, but has fallen short so far on increasing the district's accountability score to a B, increasing the middle school's score by a letter each year, increasing the average ACT score and increasing student growth or accountability ratings at each school.

The district remained at a C score this year, and each school also held the same score for a second year — a B at the elementary school, C at the high school and D at the middle school.

The district was mostly successful at lowering the number of students scoring minimal on state tests, increasing the number of students scoring proficient and advanced and increasing the passing rate.

That was true across the board for English/language arts and math. More students did better on the science tests, though the number scoring advanced dropped slightly.

Takers of the high school U.S. history test, however, missed on all counts, with the number of students scoring in the minimal understanding range increasing by 5.3 percent, the number scoring proficient falling by 1 percent, and the number scoring advanced decreasing by almost 10 percent.

Growth, the measure of whether students are increasing their understanding and mastery of material, was a big issue for the district.

Growth in math, especially, hurt the district, with lower rates of growth overall and for the lowest performing 25 percent of students.

SEE N. PIKE, PAGE A2

