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GOOD FRIDAY
PAGE 3

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
PAGE 4

FARMER JIM NEAL GOLF CLASSIC FINDS THE MARK



BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN

Nice weather? Check. Good food? Check. Strong participation from players and sponsors? Check and check.

The 16th annual Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic filled in all the boxes for success on April 7 at Madison's Whisper Lake Country Club.

The tournament is one of the largest fundraisers of the year for Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc., the volunteer, non-profit organization that promotes awareness of mental health issues and raises funds for projects that enhance the quality of life for patients and residents at MSH.

The net amount raised from this year's tournament was approximately \$7,800.

"Not only did everyone get to participate in a worthwhile event, but because of their participation they help Friends in our efforts to fund activities for our patients and residents," said Sheila Shows, MSH Volunteer Services Director.

"We could not have asked for prettier weather. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful day of golf. The food provided by Valley Foods was wonderful, as always. Something new this year, we were able to put a prize on every hole, so each golfer had a chance to win a course prize, along

with door prizes. I cannot thank the Neal family, BankPlus, Valley, Whisper Lake and our players enough for their support and participation in this tournament."

The tournament is named in honor of the late "Farmer Jim" Neal, a Jackson radio personality and state legislator whose involvement with MSH traces to the 1950s. On the airwaves for decades, he was a strong advocate of community service, volunteer work and charity. With his family's support, the spirit of his service carries on in the golf tournament. The FJN is fun event that promotes fellowship and goodwill, but on the golf course, lots of pride -- and prizes -- are at stake.

BankPlus won the team competition, played under a four-person scramble format on the challenging Whisper Lake course. The players were Austin Brown, Joel Ross, Kevin Brady and Pat Michael.

Ross, Vice President of Friends of MSH, Inc., and Brown played on a second BankPlus team with Brad Riles and Jay Hassel that posted the second-best score of the day. Third place went to a Whisper Lake team of Joe Stapleton, Paul Brown, Ron Virden and Stephen Lum.

Among the prizes available on the course were a car from Watson Quality Ford on No. 16 and a big screen TV from Cowboy Maloney on No. 12. A hole-in-one was required to claim either of those prizes,

and no one managed that feat. But 16 other prizes were handed out.

Individual prize winners included: Kevin Brady (Tico's Steakhouse gift certificate) on No. 18; Bobby Stephens (C-Spire cooler and phone) on 17; Larry Carruth (Amerigo's gift certificate) on 15; Scott Higdon (C-Spire cooler and phone) on 14; Brad Riles (Walker's gift certificate) on 13; Jake Hutchins (C-Spire cooler and phone) on 11; Stephens (Whisper Lake gift certificate) on 10; Gene Amason (Babalu's gift certificate) on 9; Brady (C-Spire cooler and phone) on 8; Edd Sudduth (Saltine gift certificate) on 7; Bob Harper (Dick's Sporting Goods gift certificate) on 6; Carruth (Half Shell Oyster House gift certificate) on 5; Rudy Runnels (Char gift certificate) on 4; Joe Stapleton (M-Braves skybox tickets) on 3; Quentin Jackson (Table 100 gift certificate) on 2; and Ian McAdams (2 rounds of golf at Whisper Lake) on 1.

Many of the golfers also participated in a "wine toss" game for a chance to win a bottle of wine.

Participants enjoyed breakfast, lunch and a post-event dinner prepared by Valley Services.

The Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic is held each April on the Friday of Masters week, so mark your calendars for 2018.



A LETTER OF THANKS TO STAFF ON B-48, ADAMS INN

Because of the unfortunate truth that not everyone who has a job actually performs that job, I feel it is incumbent upon me to let all of you know that there are some ladies in Building 48 who ARE doing their jobs! From working with children & senior adults I know that it takes more than a certain skill set to do what they are doing, it takes a calling. I regret that I am unable to recall the names of all the staffers I met when I visited my mother in late February of this year. I expressed my thanks to them but feel it is important that “the powers that be” are informed as well.

My 86 year old mother who has dementia became a resident of Jaquith Nursing Home in December 2016. From the admissions staffer who wisely chose to place her in Building 48, Nurse Brandy, the CNAs who actually provide the hands on physical care she needs, to the two ladies I met who keep that building clean as well as others, are all contributing positively to my mother’s well-being.

This is evident to my sisters & me in part because we saw her dressed in a fresh outfit daily & largely because she has not had a UTI since she has been there. Before now she has hardly gone 5 weeks without one, therefore to go 5 MONTHS without needing UTI treatment tells us our mother’s needs are being well met. That kind of care is hard work & likely thankless due to the diminished condition of most of the recipients.

My mother, by example, instilled in her daughters the importance of giving credit where credit is due & expressing gratitude. Due to the dementia, in 4-5 years she has gone from one who was exceptional at expressing herself in written & spoken word to one who could only say “Thank you for all you do for us” to one who can hardly keep up with what is happening minute to minute, much less expressing appreciation. In fact, I imagine some of those working closely with her these days might say her ability to express her DISsatisfaction has “blossomed”! Some of those are Shonette, Brenda, Ashley, Kim, Vera, RN Brandy, those behind the scenes responsible for meals, & those involved in securing a merry walker for my mother (a miraculous contraption we didn’t know existed much less have recommended by other facilities) & again those precious ladies who “clean house” behind everyone!!

Please let these staffers know that the job they are doing is needful & appreciated.

Sincerely,

The Daughters

Patty - Ridgeland, MS

Lynette - Broken Arrow, OK

MarthaCarol - Hackettstown, NJ

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



Rev. Willis Washington of St. Mark’s Church in Clinton delivered the message at Mississippi State Hospital’s 16th annual Good Friday Easter Celebration. The ceremony, presented by the Pastoral Care Department, was held on April 14 in the Chapel on Building 38. Music was provided by pianist Denesha Evans and

Bridget Shield, and Chaplains Mark Kangar, B.J. McAlpin, Christina Frazier and Clinton Robinson took part in the program. Hymns included The Old Rugged Cross, Jesus Paid It All and At the Cross.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Chandra Gayden, Nurse Administrator for Jaquith Nursing Home, recently received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Healthcare Management from Walden University. Gayden, from Braxton, has worked at Mississippi State Hospital since 2000. Her office is on Building 78, Jaquith Inn. Carla Lindsey, Project Officer/Special in the Personnel Office, completed the Mississippi State Personnel Board’s Basic Supervisory Course in February. Lindsey, a Jackson resident, has worked at Mississippi State Hospital for three years. She works on Building 61.



Chandra Gayden



Carla Lindsey

CONGRATULATIONS APRIL EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Direct Care
Willie Jean Logan,
JNH, B-48, C Shift

Willie Jean Logan has been named Mississippi State Hospital's April Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Logan is a Direct Care Assistant Supervisor who works on Adams Inn, Building 48. A Brandon native and Puckett High School graduate, Logan has worked at MSH for 15 years.

"When it comes to MSH core values, (Logan) displays a lot of the 'old school' ways," said Doril Sanders, Administrator for Adams Inn. "Mrs. Logan was a 'team leader' doing the work of a DCAS for many years because there was not a DCAS position available. When the positions became available, there were not enough slots left to promote Ms. Logan. She decided to continue working in that capacity until one became available nearly 11 months later. ... She is a great asset to B-48 and JNH."

"Mrs. Logan is a team player that goes above and beyond helping all her coworkers and residents," said Brandy Newsome, who also nominated Logan. "Her work habits inspire and support the performance of others. She has a positive attitude toward work responsibilities and coworkers. She has a willingness to exercise good leadership, take initiative and accept and carry out additional responsibilities beyond regular assignments."



Clinical Service
Patricia Haggard,
IPS, B-23, B Shift

Patricia Haggard has been named Mississippi State Hospital's April Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Haggard is a Licensed Practical Nurse working at Oak Circle Center, Building 23. Haggard, a Jackson native and Lanier High School graduate who lives in Bolton, has been employed at MSH since 1998.

"It is impossible to summarize in a few words what kind of nurse Patricia Haggard is to OCC, especially North Circle," said Kamekia Grant, who made the nomination. "She is a born leader and has made countless contributions to make North Circle run smoothly and become what it is today. ..."

"She works tirelessly to enable the staff assigned to her unit to succeed. She is the best nurse when it comes to ensuring patient safety. She has embraced the changes that are occurring on OCC with encouragement to all."



Support Services
Kaya Karabelen,
Fiscal Services, B-21, A Shift

Kaya Karabelen has been named Mississippi State Hospital's April Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Karabelen, a Natchez native who now resides in Brandon, is an Accounting/Auditing Tech in Fiscal Services on Building 21. Karabelen is a Hinds Community College alumnus and Air Force veteran who has worked at MSH for two years.

"I have never seen a frown on Kaya's face," said Kanitra Walton, who nominated Karabelen. "If you are having an off day, his presence is uplifting and positive. Kaya has great pride in his job and an exceptional work ethic. ... He also possesses a strong willingness to learn and obtain new skills. Kaya is a perfect example of what MSH's core values represent."

"Kaya is always friendly and helpful when getting items from the post office," said Vicki Payne. "He works diligently to see that patients receive their packages and mail as quickly as possible."