



SunHerald

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI'S NEWSPAPER

75¢ VOL. 128, NO. 305

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012

WWW.SUNHERALD.COM

Coast schools collect on misspent funds

Report names 4 former employees who collectively owed more than \$500K

By MELISSA M. SCALLAN and DONNA HARRIS Sun Herald

more than \$29,000 in missing funds.

Harvey is accused of making purchases that she can't document, about \$12,000 worth since Hurricane Katrina. With interest and investigative fees, the amount jumped to

\$35,000, but state auditors said they would take off \$6,000 if Harvey paid the entire amount.

Harvey is one of three former school district employees from Jackson, Harrison and Pearl River coun-



Harvey

ties and a former Long Beach mental health agency director included in the fiscal year 2012 auditor's report released by Stacy Pickering's office Thursday.

The 43-page report details all misappropriated or mis-spent public funds and dis-allowed expenditures along with the actions taken by the state auditor's office for re-

covery and return of those funds to the appropriate entities for FY 2012 as well as the status in the cases, Lisa Shoemaker, director of communications for state auditor's office, said.

Pickering's office has re-covered \$1.13 million so far, he said in the report.

School district Superintendent Carolyn Hamilton fired

Harvey in May for improperly documenting expenditures from donations after Hurricane Katrina. Harvey appealed her termination and a hearing was held in late June. The School Board last week received a transcript of the hearing and must read it before deciding if Harvey can

REPORT TO 5A

Gov. Bryant 'disappointed' in church that blocked black wedding

He excludes gay couples from his pro-marriage equality remarks

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant said Thursday it is "unfortunate" that a predominantly white church in the state wouldn't allow a black couple to get married in its sanctuary.

Bryant said Mississippi should encourage the union of any couple — as long as the couple is made up of a man and a woman.

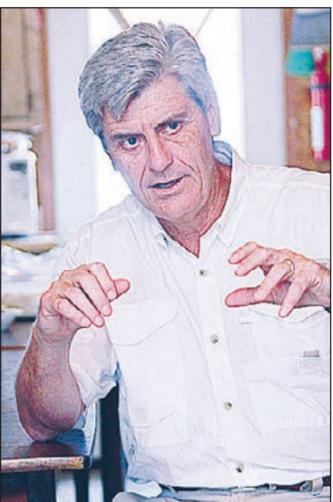
Charles and Te'Andrea Wilson say they weren't allowed to marry in July at First Baptist Church of Crystal Springs, a small town south of Jackson.

The Rev. Stan Weatherford, pastor of the church, married the Wilsons at a predominantly black church nearby. The wedding was moved after some congregants at First Baptist told Weatherford they opposed allowing black people to marry in the church.

"As hard as we work to try to convince the rest of the world that Mississippi has changed — and, in fact, we have — to see an unfortunate situation like that occur is very disappointing," Bryant said Thursday in response to questions from The Associated Press.

Bryant spoke to AP and other reporters after he gave a speech at the Neshoba County Fair, an annual gathering in the red clay hills

BRYANT TO 5A



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS Gov. Phil Bryant talks to reporters following lunch at the Neshoba County Fair on Thursday.

Residents protest property-value spike



TIM ISBELL/SUN HERALD

Jackson County Tax Assessor Benny Goff tries to address the concerns of a group of residents from Gulf Hills subdivision in Ocean Springs. The residents were concerned about increased taxes.

Gulf Hills homeowners stream into Jackson County tax assessor's office

By KAREN NELSON klnelson@sunherald.com

this year. About 50 came, many of them retirees.

PASCAGOULA — Residents from Gulf Hills subdivision north of Ocean Springs crowded the county tax assessor's office Thursday morning asking why their property values have gone up so much

Overwhelmed at first, Tax Assessor Bonnie Goff took the group to his board room six or seven at a time.

They said they feared they had been singled out unfairly. Their

More photos online at SunHerald.com

property taxes would be going up when the rest of the county's would be going down or staying the same.

Taxes on the Gulf Hills golf course will go up \$11,000 based on the new values and the resort hotel is up 20 percent.

The value of property around the resort — the 650-home sub-

division — is up an average of 22 percent, District 4 Supervisor Troy Ross has said, but the crowd that showed up at the courthouse Thursday at Ross' invitation, brought numbers that showed increases of 40 percent and more, especially on land.

Ross took them to the assessor. The residents were looking for an explanation.

The area is considered upscale.

PROPERTY TO 5A

Sewing marathon benefits nursing home residents

By PRISCILLA LOEBENBERG Special to the Sun Herald

More photos online at SunHerald.com

GULFPORT — Lois Hawthorne taught home economics in her early years as an educator in Bay St. Louis before moving to Gulfport and teaching a variety of courses there. Throughout the summer, the retired teacher has drawn upon lesson plans she said she hasn't used in 47 years to help the North Gulfport Community thrive.

She has organized classes on nutrition, a life skills class for boys called Gearing for Guys and a charity sewing program.

On Tuesday, community members and some of Hawthorne's former home economics students met

at the North Gulfport Community Education Center for a "sit and sew marathon." The group made clothing protectors in the form of large bibs and aprons for nursing home residents. Hawthorne said she hoped to complete 50 by the end of the day.

Hawthorne said she was inspired by her friend, Bette Buckley, who invited her to a quilting group in Long Beach where she told her about charity sewing projects.

"I wanted to do something

SEWING TO 5A



AMANDA MCCOY/SUN HERALD

Gaynette Flowers Pugh and Camden Fant, 10, sew aprons for a local nursing home on Thursday at the North Gulfport Community Education Center in Gulfport.

CHICK-FIL-A CONTROVERSY LEADS TO RECORD SALES, 6D

INDEX

Annie, Abby.....4B	Obituaries.....4A
Business.....6D	Opinion.....2C
Classified.....1E	Sports.....1D
Crosswords.....3E	TV.....4B
Horoscopes.....4B	@Home.....1B

WEATHER, 6C

High 92
Low 74
Thunderstorms

