



THE GREENWOOD Commonwealth



SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2026 — 130th YEAR WEEKEND GREENWOOD, MISS. \$1.50

Board approves starting construction on high school

By TAYLOR THOMPSON
Staff Writer

The Greenwood Leflore Consolidated School Board has voted to allow Thrash Commercial Contractors to begin construction of the new countywide high school.

The vote was 3-1 during a special called meeting Wednesday, with board member Magdalene Abraham opposing.

The total cost of the project — including the high school, gymnasium, parking lot and lighting — is set at \$38,530,828.

Voters in Leflore County approved a \$44 million bond issue in Novem-

ber 2024 to construct a new high school. Abraham was the lone board member to vote against holding that election.

The board has been operating with four members since District 3's Henry Fant II died in April. A special election to fill that seat is scheduled Nov. 3.

"I think we really needed five members there to make that decision," Abraham said after Wednesday's meeting. "Originally voted against the bond issue. I have concerns about it coming to fruition and what we've already paid."

M3A (Mc3lroy) Architecture has handled the design of the project,

and the board hired Dale Partners Architects to manage the project earlier this year.

The district decided to plan for a separate contract with Thrash Contractors, located in Brandon, for the academic portion and has hired Memphis-based Athletic Services Plus to provide professional services related to the athletic facilities.

Dr. Kenneth Pulley, superintendent, said the district plans for the athletic portion to include a football stadium, an eight-lane track, concessions and restrooms.

Athletic Services plans to share

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Photo by Taylor Thompson, © 2026, Emmerich Newspapers, Inc. **Four renderings of the new high school, including an overhead view, were shown at the Greenwood Leflore Consolidated School Board special called meeting Wednesday.**

Bearing witness

Museum's Sept. 11 exhibit opens



Photo by Taylor Thompson, © 2026, Emmerich Newspapers, Inc. **Richard Avant, a veteran of the U.S. Army, was one of many veterans who attended the Sept. 11, 2001, anniversary program at the Museum of the Mississippi Delta Friday.**



Photo by Taylor Thompson, © 2026, Emmerich Newspapers, Inc. **Veterans, first responders and students of Leflore Legacy Academy filled the crowd during a special program held Friday at the Museum of the Mississippi Delta.**

By TAYLOR THOMPSON
Staff Writer

On the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Museum of the Mississippi Delta held a program Friday honoring first responders, veterans and community members.

Lisa Cookston, executive director of the museum, and Dale Persons of American Post Legion 29 led the observance Friday in front of a packed crowd of veterans, Greenwood Police Department and Fire Department members, Leflore County Sheriff Department members, Leflore Legacy Academy students and others.

"Twenty-five years have

passed since Sept. 11, but for those who witnessed it, survived it, responded to it or lost ones they loved, it's not simply a chapter in a history book," Cookston said during the program. "It's personal."

"We have people that are from this town and from this area who witnessed it and survived it. Our exhibit, 'Mississippi Bears Witness,' was created around that idea. Although the attack took place hundreds of miles from Mississippi, their impact reached every community in America."

The exhibit, which opened Thursday and will run until November, includes rare



Photo by Andy Lo, © 2026, Emmerich Newspapers, Inc. **Lisa Cookston, executive director of the Museum of the Mississippi Delta, led the program Friday to celebrate first responders, veterans and other community members on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.**

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Supervisors rescind Saylor tax exemption

By TAYLOR THOMPSON
Staff Writer

The Leflore County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to rescind a 10-year tax exemption for Saylor Wheel Holdings as the company has paused production.

The tax breaks were originally passed during the board's Aug. 24 meeting by a 3-2 vote, with District 2's Reginald Moore and District 4's Eric Mitchell voting no. The Greenwood City Council approved a 10-year tax exemption for Saylor Wheel last week.

Kelvin Pulley, the board's attorney, said he couldn't advise the board to go forward with the exemption after learning that the company is not currently operational.

Floyd Melton III, a Saylor Wheel board member, gave the supervisors an update Tuesday.

"I told you when I was here last time we were trying to get additional funds to keep going," he said. "I was very clear about that when I sat here, and I said that exemption would be very critical to us getting additional funds from somebody to come in and try to keep the plant here."

"There's one person out there right now, but we're furloughed until we get additional funding. ... When I came last time, we were manufacturing. We stopped shortly thereafter because the funds we thought were coming did not come, but we're still working on it."

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Museum rep asks board to rethink cut in funding

By TAYLOR THOMPSON
Staff Writer

For the second consecutive year, leadership of the Museum of the Mississippi Delta has asked Leflore County officials to reconsider reducing the county's funding to the museum.

The proposed budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year includes a decrease in the county's funding to the museum from \$45,000 to \$20,000.

Last fiscal year, the county's funding to the museum was lowered from \$45,000 to \$10,000 before the supervisors voted to reinstate the full funding weeks after the budget was approved.

A motion before the Leflore County Board of Supervisors to reinstate the funding for the upcoming fiscal year failed 2-3 Tuesday, with District 2's Reginald Moore, District 4's Eric Mitchell and District 5's Robert Collins opposing.

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Abbott signs books



Photo by Brent Maze, © 2026, Emmerich Newspapers, Inc. **Former Enterprise-Tocsin publisher Jim Abbott, right, signs a copy of his book "Paper Man: Chasing the Truth in the Mississippi Delta" at Turnrow Books for Anita Batman of Greenwood. The two were childhood friends in Greenwood. For more coverage of the signing, see Page 7A.**

300 Oaks Road Race returns for its 46th year

By TAYLOR THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Greenwood's historic 300 Oaks Road Race will be returning for its 46th edition next Saturday.

"It's a tradition," said Beth Stevens, executive director of the Greenwood-Leflore County Chamber of Commerce.

"It's a great event for all different ages, whether you are an experienced runner

or a beginner. I encourage parents and grandparents to bring their kids and grandchildren out to get the youth involved and start the healthy habit early."

The road race, inspired by the 300 oak trees that were originally planted years ago on Grand Boulevard, is always held on the third Saturday of September.

Races will begin at the Yazoo River boat landing on Saturday, Sept. 19, and

include a 10K run, a 5K run, a 5K walk and a 1-mile fun run.

Those in the 10K run will kick off the event at 8 a.m., followed by the 5K run at 8:10 a.m. and 5K walk at 8:15 a.m. The 1-mile fun run will start at 9 a.m.

About 195 participants had signed up as of Friday afternoon, and Stevens said the event typically averages around 250

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