

# Ramblin' B

April 7, 2011

## Redistricting splits county for House

**25 Years Ago  
April 10, 1986**

The Leake County school board gave the green light to innovations and faculty changes at Carthage schools that will become effective this fall.

At a recessed meeting Friday, the board approved the transfer of fifth grade students from the elementary school to Carthage Junior High to make room for four or five kindergarten classes, and moving the ninth grade to Carthage High.

Board approval was also given to implementing a seven-period schedule at CHS this fall.

Former State Sen. Tommy N. Brooks, Carthage, lost his appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals when that court upheld his conviction on extortion and his sentence of nine years in prison.

Melvin Wooten, manager of Leake County Insurance Agency, has been honored as an Economic Development Laureate by the Mississippi Industrial Development Council and Gov. Bill Allain.

Wooten is one of 10 from around the state who will be recognized at the Industry Awards dinner April 29, for contribution in 1985 to the economic growth of their communities.

High for week, 88; low, 53; .77 inches rainfall.

**20 Years Ago  
April 11, 1991**

Leake County remains intact in a state senate district, but loses two of its precincts to Attala County in a house district in a proposed legislative redistricting plan approved in dying days of lawmakers' 1991 session.

The redistricting plans were adopted by a joint senate-house redistricting committee and will be available this month for public inspection at meetings around the state.

Leake County supervisors took under advisement bids on electronic voting equipment. A decision will possibly be made at their April 24 meeting.

Bids Friday came from Business Records Corp., on a punch card system, and from American Information System, on a paper ballot scanner system.

A Carthage man returning to North Carolina from Saudi Arabia had little hope his wife would be on hand to meet him when the plane on which he was riding touched down on American soil.

Mrs. Tammie Johnson was there, and handed her husband, Pfc. Shelby Johnson, of the 21st Military Police Airborne Co., a daughter he had never held, and hugged him at the same time.

High for week., 85; low, 51; .84 inches rainfall.

**10 Years Ago  
April 12, 2001**

More than a half million dollars in road, bridge and culvert damage was believed done in Leake County by rains which ripped the area last week.

Leake County Emergency Management Director Tommy Malone said officials estimated there was \$550,000 in damage inflicted on area roads.

The wash-outs, blow-outs and more occurred after the northeast corner of the county was hammered Wednesday afternoon and evening, April 4, by rain.

Malone said estimates of area rainfall ran as high as seven inches, most falling in about a three-hour period.

Lawmen scoured Leake County in the early morning hours Friday, making a sweep of suspected drug dealers.

By the end of the day, 11 of 16 suspects sought by the law were in custody, and a 12th accidentally turned himself in to Carthage cops Saturday.

Concluding about four months of undercover investigations, the sweep was hailed by local lawmen for the cooperation involved and the volume of drugs the alleged dealers sold.

High for week, 86; low, 59; 2.62 inches rainfall.



Sharon Grimes, who formerly owned Lofton's in Carthage, works on her new love, pottery, in her workshop in Walnut Grove. Grimes said she has tried to develop her own unique style of pottery in recent months.

## Up from the ashes After disaster, Grimes regroups with unique brand of pottery

June 17, 2010, is a day Sharon Grimes said she isn't likely to ever forget.

That was the night her business of around 15 years – Lofton's in Carthage – burned to the ground.

"I won't ever forget that day," Grimes said. "I just try to block out everything that burned. I try not to dwell on it."

Though certainly devastated by the loss of her business and realizing starting over was almost an impossibility as the business had been, Grimes soon landed in Walnut Grove and turned her focus toward pottery, a longtime fascination of hers but one she had never pursued.

"In college, I took an art class and I made one piece of pottery," she said. "I saw pottery before and I always wished I could get stuff like what I've been making here."

The best way she's found to describe her brand of pottery is Dirt Roads Pottery, which became the name for her business as it reflects the unique nature and rugged style of much of her work that includes everything from ornaments to decorative platters to cutting boards.

What makes her work different, she said, is her use of a variety of glaze color combinations and her



refusal to use cookie-cutter patterns.

But, before she could set about developing her own style, Grimes said she sought tutorials on Youtube.com and then from Morton-based pottery whiz Donna Vosburg, who gave her lessons and supplies her with clay.

"There are so many things you can make that I don't have time for it all," she said. "I have to choose. A lot of people pour clay into a mold and they get the

same thing every time – I don't want that. You won't find two of my pieces that are exactly the same.

"I want that not-perfect look. I think I've come a long way in a short time with my designs."

Lots of time went into that, she said, as working with color combinations and tinkering with ideas is an ever-evolving process.

Grimes said she keeps what essentially equals a glaze recipe



Grimes, left, removed a sample of what will soon be a colorful, glazed platter from her kiln and, then, right, she applies a red glaze to a similar piece.

book with the formulas to certain glaze applications, including a red one that includes six colors.

"I write down all the formulas in a book because when I started I would come up with something and it would take a month for me to get it to look the same again," she said.

So, Grimes said she has spent the last few months stockpiling her inventory to take her wares to community events

such as Carthage's Square Affair and the Canton Flea Market, hoping soon to attend even bigger shows throughout the South and the country. In one week, Grimes made 900 initial pins.

"I've always wanted to do it like this, but I never had time with the store," Grimes said. "But, I think this is what I was meant to do. I really want to have a studio and I want to keep it in Leake County."



To view more of Sharon Grimes' pottery, visit [www.dirtroadspottery.com](http://www.dirtroadspottery.com)