



**JUST FOR KICKS!** Lady Patriots battle Olive Branch among Tuesday prep play. P6

## More candidates qualify for county

BY BOB BAKKEN  
STAFF WRITER

A few additional names have popped up on the list of candidates for DeSoto County offices as the qualifying period continues through its March 1 deadline.

Current Chancery Clerk Misty Heffner quickly filed and qualified to be placed on the ballot for re-election shortly after the qualifying period started on Jan. 2.

This week, Heffner attracted opposition as longtime Olive Branch attorney Hugh H. Armistead announced and qualified for the position.

In making the announcement, Armistead said in a statement, "I look forward to hearing from the voters and better understanding their thoughts, ideas and concerns. I believe we need a solutions first attitude and will implement this philosophy beginning my first day in office."

County Coroner Josh Pounders has qualified for election to his current post. He was named the interim coroner when his father and former coroner Jeff Pounders passed away.

Horn Lake attorney Jim Holland has qualified to run for county attorney and is, as of Wednesday, the only candidate for that position.

A race has also developed between Jeff Fitch and Roger

SEE MORE CANDIDATES, P2

# Vocal opposition



Courtesy photo

DeSoto County Second District Supervisor Mark Gardner Monday passed the gavel to incoming Board President and Fourth District Supervisor Lee Caldwell as the board met for the first time in 2019. First District Supervisor Jessie Medlin will serve as Board Vice-President.

## Supervisors hear from Olive Branch annexation opponents

BY BOB BAKKEN  
STAFF WRITER

DeSoto County supervisors this week met for the first time in 2019 with a change of leadership for the new year and a lengthy discussion about a proposed annexation from one of its cities.

District 4 Supervisor Lee Caldwell was named the Board President for the coming year, replacing District 2 Supervisor Mark Gardner. District 1 Supervisor Jesse Medlin will become the board's Vice President during the 2019 year.

With those formalities out of the way, supervisors went head long into a busy day of deliberations that included a lengthy discussion of the efforts by the City of Olive Branch to annex adjoin-

**'The county has sound zoning ordinances, owns the sewer system and has one of the best Sheriff's departments in the country.'**

Supervisor Jesse Medlin  
(from board meeting minutes)

ing land in the Center Hill, Lewisburg, Pleasant Hill, Bridgetown and Cedar View areas of the county.

Last November, Olive Branch began the process to annex about 50 square miles into the city limits. With the annexation, Olive Branch's population would grow by about 14,000 residents and would add about 5,000 homes.

The city's contention, as described by city officials when the plan was proposed

in November, is that the city has spent millions of dollars adding utilities in the past two decades and their ability to offer services has helped those areas gain attractiveness to growth.

"This is something we've been working on for 20 years and it is about to come to fruition," Mayor Scott Phillips said at the time.

There were few in the city's corner at Monday's Board of Supervisors meeting, however, including the five members of the board, who all had concerns about the city's proposed move.

Areas affected by the proposed annexation move include parts of districts represented by Supervisors Michael Lee, Jesse Medlin and Mark Gardner.

SEE SUPERVISORS, P2



Bob Bakken|DTT (file photo)

**Mississippi Northern District Transportation Commissioner Tuesday announced he would not be seeking re-election in the 2019 election cycle. Tagert has served North Mississippi in the capacity for nearly 10 years. Among the projects during his tenure was the completion of I-269 in DeSoto County.**

## Tagert does not seek re-election

BY BOB BAKKEN  
STAFF WRITER

There will be a new person next year representing the Northern District, including DeSoto County, on the Mississippi Transportation Commission, after current Commissioner Mike Tagert Tuesday announced he would not be seeking re-election.

"Time has moved quickly but this is the overall best decision for the family for me to make at this time," Tagert said in making the announcement. "It has been an absolute honor to serve the good people of North Mississippi in this capacity."

When looking at Tagert's time on the Transportation Commission, the

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