

Rural Mississippians deserve internet service the same as anyone else

Ask any elected official in Mississippi if people living in rural areas deserve the same quality of life as people living in cities and you will probably get a quick “yes” but, that isn’t what current state policy says. Internet service has become a necessity for modern life, but far too many Mississippians live in the “digital dark,” lacking access to affordable, reliable internet service. Because they lack internet service, many of our people cannot compete for jobs, take online courses, access telehealth services or even simply browse the internet.



BRANDON PRESLEY

electricity, cooked on wood stoves, washed clothes on scrub boards, hand-pumped water from wells and studied by candlelight.

Out of pure determination, Mississippi created the model that electrified America. In 1934, a group of citizens gathered in McPeters Furniture Store in Corinth and decided to do whatever it took to “bring the lights” to rural Alcorn County. They formed Alcorn Electric Power Association, the very first electric cooperative in the country. The idea quickly spread and the people of Pontotoc, Lee and Prentiss Counties came together to fix the lack of electricity in their communities and soon the rest of America followed. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt modeled parts of the New Deal on what was called “The Corinth Experiment.” Rural America got electricity thanks to Mississippi. Fixing our own problems is in the DNA of Mississippians. In 2018, we should use the same Mississippi spirit that brought electricity to rural households to bring high-speed internet service to rural people.

In every state bordering Mississippi, and across the nation, electric cooperatives owned by the people,

are bringing affordable, high-speed internet service to their members. Fiber-to-the-home internet service through rural electric cooperatives is happening in almost every state, but Mississippi. Currently, several electric cooperatives in our state want to provide internet service to their people and many more have conducted studies to look into the idea. Sadly, a 1942 state law is handcuffing them from providing internet service. This summer, the statewide association of electric cooperatives voted unanimously to ask legislators to change that law. This is a simple fix that could save our rural communities, keep our children and grandchildren home and change the future of our state.

Earlier in November, the association of electric cooperatives presented the “Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act” to legislators. This proposed change in state law does not take one penny from the state treasury and doesn’t prohibit any other telecommunications company from providing internet service anywhere. The proposed law gives rural Mississippi a chance to get the internet service they desperately need and it un-cuffs the hands of the electric cooperatives to improve the quality of life of their people. It is no mandate and asks for no money. It is an example of free market competition.

Rural Mississippians deserve the same quality of life as anyone else. I hope passing the “Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act” will be a top priority for the Legislature in 2019.

Improving the quality of life in our rural areas should be a top priority for Democrats, Republicans and everyone in between. It is time to bring high-speed internet service to every dirt and dusty road in Mississippi. It is time to bring rural Mississippi out of the “digital dark.”

Brandon Presley is the Chairman of the Public Service Commission and represents the state’s northern 33 counties.

Another major purpose of Miss Mississippi’s visit will be to present a Statewide Tobacco Free and Make Good Choices Program for students called TAR WARS. “We are equally excited about her program as well because it, in many ways, is in line with our After-Shock Program,” stated Whigham.

Miss Mississippi 2018 to visit Williams-Sullivan Elementary

Press Release

Excitement is in the air at Williams-Sullivan Elementary School (WSE) in Durant!

According to Principal Shem Y. Whigham, Ph.D., Miss Mississippi 2018, Asya Branch, has accepted WSE’s invitation on Thursday, December 6, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. to participate in the launching of the school’s After-shock Program for girls in its Sixth-Grade Academy.

“This will be a historical moment and great platform for the young girls who participate in the After-shock Program to see and hear a remarkable young lady who achieved and accomplished what she set out to do despite the odds,” said Whigham.

According to Whigham, WSE’s After-Shock Program addresses the issues of

poverty, violence, and lack of educational attainment with girls during the critical pre-teen years, when personal choices that are made can have lifelong consequences. “It builds leadership skills and character traits such as honesty, personal accountability, learning to listen to the viewpoints of others, clear communication, critical thinking about life and its choices, and sound decision making” Whigham explained.

“We are both honored and excited that Miss Branch will be visiting our district via Williams-Sullivan’s invitation,” said Superintendent of Schools James L. Henderson, ED.D. “She will be a shining role model for our girls and students in general. We are so proud of her achievements.”



Southern Folks Sayings

One thing that sets Southern people apart is not only the way we talk, but the things we say. Here are a few of my favorite ideas and sayings.

*When I say y’all, I mean all y’all.

*I’m fixin to.....

*Vegetarian is an old word for bad hunter.

*Here in the South we don’t hide crazy, we put it on the front porch.

*Calories don’t count on the week-end.

*Sweet tea is the house wine of the South.

*I’m so busy I don’t know if I found a rope or lost my horse.

*I love you like biscuits and gravy.

*Well, shut my mouth!

*Never underestimate the power of a Hissie Fit!

*It is as hot as blue blazes!

*Southerners know you don’t cook meals, you fix them.

*Ugly as homemade sin.

*Calories don’t count when you eat standing up.

*Doohickey – a name for an object or person you can’t remember or never knew in the first place. Other variations: whatchamacallit and thingamajig.

*I love you like sweet tea!

*What is the difference between a Northern fairy tale and a Southern fairy tale? Northern begins “Once Upon a Time...” Southern begins “Y’all ain’t gonna believe this...”

*I don’t know that Miss Piggy is Southern, but I love these two saying of hers:

“I never met a meal I didn’t like.”

“Never eat more than you can lift.”

Today’s recipes go along

with today’s topic. Only in the South would you have these two recipe titles. Thanks for reading.

DADDY’S 5th WIFE’S BLACK-EYED PEA CORNBREAD

- 1 lb. hot pork sausage
- 1 cup cornmeal
- ½ cup plain flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 (15 oz.) can black-eye peas, drained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- ¾ cup creamed corn
- 1 (4 oz.) can diced jalapenos
- 1 (4 oz.) can diced green chilies

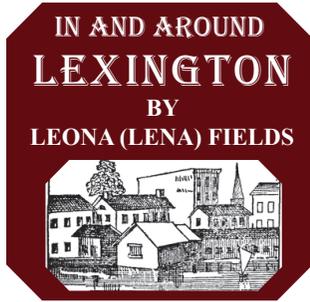
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray a 9 x 13 inch baking dish with cooking spray; set aside. In a skillet, cook sausage until no longer pink; drain fat and set aside. Combine cornmeal, flour, salt, baking soda, eggs, buttermilk, and oil. Stir cooked sausage, peas, cheese, creamed corn, jalapenos, and green chilies into cornbread batter. Pour into prepared pan and bake for 1 hour, uncovered.

DADDY’S 3rd WIFE’S CHOCOLATE PECAN PIE

- 1 cup sugar
 - ½ cup butter, melted
 - 3 eggs, slightly beaten
 - ¾ cup light corn syrup
 - ¼ tsp. salt
 - 2 Tbsp. bourbon
 - 1 tsp. vanilla
 - ½ cup chopped pecans
 - ½ cup chocolate chips
 - 1 (9 inch) pie shell
- Cream sugar and butter; add eggs, syrup, salt, bour-

bon, and vanilla. Mix well until blended. Spread pecans and chocolate chips that have been spread in the bottom of the pie shell that has been pricked with a fork. Pour filling into shell. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 – 50 minutes.

*Lee Ann Fleming is a Holmes County native, food columnist and has garnered fame for her recipes featured in the film, *The Help*. Fleming can be reached at lafkitchen@hughes.net.



Somebody’s prayers were answered. Thank God Mr. William Wright is back at home from the rehab in Kosciusko. He’s doing pretty good according to one of his brothers.

One of Holmes County’s long-time school bus drivers has passed, Mr. Michael Brooks. He was still driving when he got sick.

The Greyhound bus was late again fourth Saturday. It was suppose to leave Durant at 4:15 p.m. It was 7:45 p.m. when the bus arrived. The station attendant said the bus was being fixed. Thank God it wasn’t ice cold. We sat outside all that time.

Tuesday morning after the fourth Sunday, the electricity went off for the customers of Yazoo Valley Electric Company. I’m referring to customers north of Lexington. Between 11:00 and 12:00 they had fixed something on a pole by my house and the lights came on.

Ms. Warrine Simpson’s sister from Kansas visited her for Thanksgiving. She was held up at the bus station too. Ms. Simpson’s sister and two other probably missed their bus in Memphis.

manager's
Special

While Supplies Last!

7.97

29-Pc.

Screwdriver Bit Set

369470

Magnetic Drive Guide
Helps to reduce slipping and snapping
Guinea Imprescindible Magnético
Ayuda a reducir resacaídas y rombos
Guinea de Guía Magnética
Ayuda a reducir el resacaídas y resacaídas

DEWALT

Sale price through end of
December

Do it Best

LEXINGTON
home center

Do it Best
Quality Paints

109 Carrollton

Lexington

834-9007