

School choice matters for Mississippi families

In our country, we love to customize, whether it's a new addition to the house or the colors and fonts surrounding our text messages. We choose everything, from our line of work to our preferred place to grab lunch (where we probably customize our lunch order). So it's easy to understand why parents want more choices in their children's education.

Parents understand that education options open doors for their children. Every child is unique, with distinct interests and learning styles. Moms and dads know that a school that might work for one student might not be a good fit for another. They know their child best and should be empowered to select the right school.

In many states, Mississippi included, lawmakers have taken action to provide a more diverse variety of school choices for families.

From January 22-28, millions of Americans will raise aware-

ness about the importance of school choice at an unprecedented 21,000 events – including more than 120 events in Mississippi. These events are planned to coincide with National School Choice Week, the largest celebration of opportunity in education in U.S. history. For families in the Magnolia State, National School Choice Week provides a good opportunity to review the different types of education options available to their children.

Mississippians can choose traditional public schools for their kids, and the state allows parents, with some limitations, the freedom to choose traditional public schools outside of their existing school zones. This process is called open enrollment, or public school choice.

Mississippi also allows public charter schools, which are tuition-free public schools that are given the freedom to be more innovative. Magnet schools, which focus on themes such as

math, science, technology, and the performing arts, are available.

In addition, the Magnolia State is one of 41 states with a tuition-free online academy, allowing students to go to school entirely online. Of course, parents in Mississippi can also send their children to private schools, and the state offers assistance, in the form of scholarships, to qualifying families.

Finally, parents have the freedom to educate their children in the home – and more parents are home schooling their children than ever before.

Seventy percent of Americans support school choice, and January is the time to exercise the choices available to Mississippi families.

Parents who would like to explore their options, whether or not they're happy with their children's schools, should consider exploring in January. National School Choice Week is a great opportunity to visit schools, ask lots of questions of teachers and administrators,

and talk with other parents to see which educational options are likely to be the best fit for their kids.

Parents who begin the school choice process in January instead of waiting till summer break will have more options available to them. Depending on which options seem best, parents may need to meet deadlines for applications or scholarships, or they may want to enroll before a school starts a waiting list.

Why is this process important? In addition to ensuring greater peace of mind, research has demonstrated that when parents actively choose the schools their children attend, or choose to educate their children in the home, high school graduation rates increase dramatically.

A student with a high school diploma will, over the course of his or her life, earn more than a quarter million dollars more than a student who has dropped out. High school graduates are far less likely to be incarcerated, and are six times more likely to

Lexington native named to top MDOT post

Richard Chisolm, P.E., of Madison was recently been named Assistant Chief Engineer of Field Operations for the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), announced Melinda McGrath, P.E., executive director.

Chisolm, a Lexington native, has worked with MDOT for 22 years. He began his career with the agency in 1995 as an Engineer-in-Training in the Jackson Project Office.

As Assistant Chief Engineer, Chisolm will have the responsibility of overseeing MDOT's Construction, Maintenance and Traffic Engineering Divisions. Prior to his current role, he served as the State Construction Engineer where he oversaw the administration of construction contracts throughout the state.

Chisolm graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

He currently resides in Madison with his wife, Bridgett, and three children, Connor, Morgan and Matthew. Chisolm and his family are active members of Madison United Methodist Church. During his spare time, he enjoys hunting and sports.



RICHARD CHISOLM

Conservation Corner

by James Cummins
Executive Director
of Wildlife Mississippi

White-tailed deer are the most interesting and sought after animals in North America and Mississippi.

Depending on where you are located in the Magnolia State, deer usually breed between December 10 and February 4. Does normally breed only once per year; however, they may come into "heat" 3 to 4 times a year beginning in December and ending in February. The periods of "heat" last about 24 to 36 hours and occur about 28 days apart. A doe may have from 1 to 3 fawns per year, depending on her physical condition; about half the does in Mississippi produce two fawns per year. Does in Mississippi do not breed until they are 1.5 years old. Many people believe that old does do not breed but they do breed and produce young as long as they live.

Bucks do not come in "heat," but rather enter "rut." Rut consists of sparring, spreading of sign (rubs, scrapes, etc.), courtship and breeding.

Sparring begins after bucks lose their velvet. Most bucks are fairly tolerant of each other during sparring. Sparring serves to establish which bucks in an area are dominant. Body and antler size are good indicators of a buck's social dominance. Bucks communicate with other deer during rut through various visual and scent signals. "Rubs" are trunks or stems of trees or bushes that bucks rub bark off of with their antlers and head. Glands in the head leave scent on the rub. "Scrapes" consist of broken limbs 3 to 6 feet above ground, with a small depression pawed in the soil underneath on which the buck urinates. Bucks return often to scrapes to freshen their scent. A buck often locates the scent of a doe in "heat" near a scrape and will follow her with his nose to the ground while making a grunting sound. Bucks will also urinate on their inner leg glands to signal other deer. Rubs, scrapes and urinating on the tarsal glands all serve to assert a buck's social dominance and to locate does.

nance and to locate does.

During courtship, bucks become loners. Also, during courtship, tolerance among bucks disappears and fierce fights between bucks occur. Unless a doe is in "heat," she will run from a buck. Although all bucks court, only dominant bucks breed with does.

Peak fawning times in Mississippi occur between June 22 and July 22. Fawns remain hidden near their birthplace for roughly two weeks, but by the time the fawn is 1 month old it will begin to follow its mother. Fawns will nurse until they are 3 to 5 months.

Bucks take no part in raising the fawns. A fawn will lose its spotted coat at four months. Male fawns follow their mother for about 1 year; female fawns follow for about two years.

Deer in Mississippi feed mostly during the late afternoon and night. Generally, they spend the day bedded down in cover resting. An adult deer requires about 8 to 10 pounds of food per day, and about 2 to 3 quarts of water per day (depending on the type of food eaten).

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.

EXPRESS GRAIN COMMODITY PRICES

Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	Mar 17	2017 Jan	4.27	-0.57	3.70	0.04
Wheat	Jul 17	2017 Jul	4.54	-0.42	4.12	0.06
Corn	Mar 17	2017 Jan	3.60	-0.02	3.58	0.02
Corn	Sep 17	2017 Aug	3.80	-0.12	3.68	0.02
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	9.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soybeans G'wood	Mar 17	2017 Jan	10.05	-0.04	10.01	0.10
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	9.94	-0.09	9.85	0.11
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	9.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rice	Jan 17		9.460			0.020
Rice	Sep 17		10.285			0.020
Cotton	Mar 17		72.99			-1.000
Cotton	May 17		73.44			-0.850

Prices as of 2:00 p.m. on 1/9/17
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UPWORDS

The nonprofit teaching ministry of Max Lucado

The Secret of Forgiveness

You will never forgive anyone more than God has already forgiven you. Is it still hard to consider the thought of forgiving the one who hurt you? If so, go one more time to the room. Watch Jesus as he goes from disciple to disciple. Can you see him? Can you hear the water splash? Can you hear him shuffle on the floor to the next person? Keep that image.

John 13:12 says: "When he had finished washing their feet. . ." Please note; he finished washing their feet. That means he left no one out. Why is that important? Because that means he washed the feet of Judas. Jesus

washed the feet of his betrayer. That's not to say it was easy for Jesus. That's not to say it's easy for you. That IS to say, God will never call you to do what he hasn't already done!

From "The Lucado Inspirational Reader."

UpWords, with Max Lucado is a popular daily Bible devotion. This Max Lucado devotion offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life. Reading daily devotions provides strength and encouragement in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.

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participate in community and civic affairs, than individuals without high school diplomas.

Most importantly, though: school choice matters because

every child in America has potential.

*Andrew R. Campanella is president of National School Choice Week.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS will hold its next quarterly public participation meeting on **Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 6:00 P.M.** in the **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING ROOM.** This is in compliance with revised Board policy to hold one **evening** Board Meeting each quarter.

Former Holmes County High School Principal Selected to Command the 5th Logistic Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) Battalion in Sheffield, AL

Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) G. (George) Torrie Jackson, Jr. is a native of Jackson, MS. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Master of Arts degree in Education Administration, both from Jackson State University.

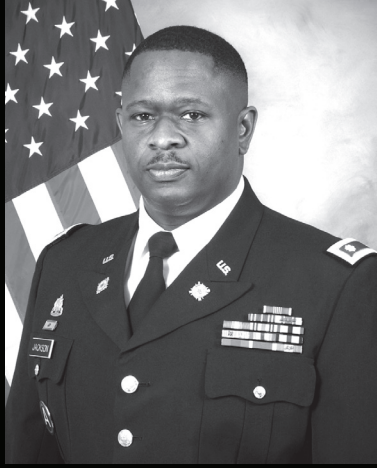
LTC Jackson is a 28 year member of the U.S. Army Reserve/Mississippi Army National Guard and veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom. He began his military career as a Petroleum Laboratory Specialist (E-3) (894th Quartermaster Company, Jackson, MS - 1988-1992), then as a Finance Specialist (E-4) (210th Finance Battalion, Jackson, MS - 1992-1996). LTC Jackson was commissioned through the Mississippi Military Academy (Class 38), Camp Shelby, MS in 1996. As a commissioned officer, LTC Jackson has held many duty assignments to include positions as a Subsistence Officer, (114th Area Support Group, Hattiesburg, MS - 1996-1997), Armament Platoon Leader (3656th Maintenance Company, Camp Shelby, MS - 1997-1998, Detachment Commander 3656th Maintenance Company, DET 1, Waynesboro, MS - 1998-2000), Maintenance Control Officer/Executive Officer (3656th Maintenance Company, Camp Shelby, MS - 2000-2001), Detachment Commander/Executive Officer (3656th Maintenance Company, DET 2, Gloster, MS - 2001-2002), S-1 Personnel Officer (298th Maintenance Battalion, Philadelphia, MS - 2002-2003), Service and Support Officer (114th Area Support Group, Hattiesburg, MS - 2003 - 2006), Company Commander (1/185th Aviation Battalion, E Company, Jackson, MS - 2006-2008), S-3 Operations Officer (8/108th Transportation Battalion, Jackson, MS - 2008-2012), Executive Officer (8/108th Transportation Battalion, Jackson, MS - 2012-2014), Materiel Readiness Branch Chief (377th Theater Sustainment Command, Belle Chasse, LA - 2014-2016).

LTC Jackson currently serves as the Battalion Commander of the 5th Logistic Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) Support Battalion, located in Sheffield, AL.

LTC Jackson's awards and commendations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserved Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Overseas Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserved Medal, Mississippi Emergency Service Medal and the Mississippi Longevity Medal.

In his civilian capacity, LTC Jackson serves as Principal of Holmes County Central High School, located in Lexington, MS and holds the rank of Lieutenant with the Hinds County Sheriff's Office - Reserve Division.

LTC Jackson, his wife, Dr. Debra Mays-Jackson, and two sons Cameron, 19, and Kendall, 16, currently live in Terry, MS.



*Paid for by Paul Smith