

MDE announces USDA income guidelines for free and reduced price meals

The Mississippi Department of Education announced last week the United States Department of Agriculture income guidelines for free and reduced price meals served under the School Lunch, School Breakfast, After School Snack Program, and Food Distribution Programs. Families with children in any of these facilities who are unable to pay the full price of the meals are encouraged to apply for benefits.

Meal applications and instructions for applying for meal benefits are sent home

with each student during registration or on the first day of attendance.

To apply for the meal benefits, each household should fill out the application and return it to the school or institution. Additional copies of the application are available at the administrative office of each facility.

For the school/institution officials to determine eligibility, the household must report income information or provide a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) or FDPIR

(Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number.

If the child receives TANF payments or is a member of a SNAP household, or a member of a FDPIR household, the parent or guardian has to provide only the name of the child, SNAP or TANF or FDPIR case number, and sign the application in order for the child to receive free meals.

Homeless, migrant, or runaway youth are categorically eligible for free meals.

Other applicants must report household income identified by source, such

as earnings, welfare and alimony received by each household member.

In order for income applicants to be approved, the household must provide the following on the application: the names of all household members, each household member's monthly income identified by source, the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct and the last four digits of the social security number of an adult who signs the application or an indication that this adult household member does not have a social security number.

The information provided by the household is confi-

dential and will be used only for purposes of determining eligibility and verifying data.

The information provided may be verified at any time during the year by the school/institution or program officials.

Households are no longer required to report increases in household income of over \$50 per month or \$600 per year and decreases in household size. However, if a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school/institution.

These changes may make the children of the household eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Households may apply for benefits at any time during the year as circumstances change.

Each school/institution has a copy of their approved free and reduced price meal policy. The policy indicates who is responsible for determining eligibility. The determining official is, in most instances, the principal, the food service administrator, or the program director.

Each school/school district/institution has an individual named as the hearing official.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis.



On Wednesday of this past week Inez Dickerson was taken out for a lunch at a Kosciusko restaurant for her birthday by Lynn Hathcock and Carol Black. It was a very enjoyable day.

Don't forget that September 9 is the Big Black River Festival. If you need any information on selling your wares or the various activities please call the following number: 662-967-2062.

Our condolences go out to the William Cade family on the passing of his brother Knottie Cade.

The football season has arrived making all the football fans happy. Hunting season has also began making the hunters happy.

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Ms. Pauline Johnson. At the time of this report, her arrangements are being made. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Jerry Tate.

Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to the hearing official. The school/institution office or the superintendent's office can provide you with the name, address, and phone number of the hearing official.

“NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF DURANT”

The City of Durant will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for the fiscal year 2018 on Monday, September 11, 2017, 12:00 a.m., at the Durant City Hall located at Mulberry Street, Durant, MS.

The City of Durant is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$5,278,035. \$886.257, or 17% of such revenue is obtained through Ad Valorem Taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$ 4,411,993. Of that amount, 20% or \$883,500 is to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2018 above the current fiscal year's ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property, unless the assessed value of your property has increased for the fiscal year 2018.

The City of Durant millage rate remains the same as last year at 112.27.

Any citizen of the City of Durant is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for the fiscal year 2018 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

Obituaries

CINDY GRANTHAM

Mrs. Cindy Grantham, 58, of Lexington, MS departed this life Sunday, September 3, 2017 at her residence. Graveside services were held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Lexington, MS. Rev. Lyn Nations officiated. Visitation was held from 12 - 1 p.m. at Jordan Funeral Home in Kosciusko, also in charge of the services.

Mrs. Grantham was a Medical Transcriptionist with Nuainse Industries and a member of Pickens Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband Phil Grantham of Lexington; her parents, Linda and B.W. Tackitt of Pickens; sisters, Tammie Watkins of Terry; brother Steve Tackitt of Madison; ten nieces and nephews; and one great-niece.

FREDDIE R. MCKAY

Freddie Ray McKay, 78, of Lexington, died Monday, September 4, 2017 at his residence. Visitation will begin at 12 noon, Thursday, September 7, 2017 with 2:00 p.m. services at Southern Funeral Home in Lexington. Chaplain Tim Frenny will officiate.

Mr. McKay was a U.S. Marine veteran and had been the property manager at the Salvation Army.

Survivors are his wife Maudie McKay; three sons; three daughters; 19 grandchildren; and 24 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents; two sisters; one brother; one son; and two daughters.

Memorials may be made to St. Joseph Hospice, 322 Highway 80 E, Clinton, MS 39056.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

