



For More Information, Please Contact

Main Street Clinton 601.924.5472

Connect with

0 A 0 y

Clinton

Main Street Clinton

House focuses on roads and bridges, votes on health care

By Speaker of the House Philip Gunn

As the 2017 Legislative Session winds down, the House pushed another measure devoted to repairing Mississippi's roads and bridges. I am proud of the House for once again stepping up to provide a solution to the needs of our roads and bridges



Special to The Clinton Couries

in Mississippi. The House has demonstrated that it is serious about beginning to address the need this year.

The House proposal outlines:

- \$50 million in bonds: \$25 million to counties, and \$25 million to cities for bridge repairs.
- Allocating the use tax Mississippi is already receiving through voluntary payments on out-of-state purchases by Mississippi residents: 50% to MDOT if they internally reallocate \$25 million in their existing budget to prioritize road and bridge repair, 25% to counties and 25% to cities for road and bridge improvements.
- That if federal law changes, allowing for the collection of use tax from out-of-state sellers, Mississippi will spend up to \$200 million of that money on road and bridge improve-

ments.

• When our state general fund revenue grows more than 2% in one year, 50% of those dollars beyond the 2% growth (up to a max of \$100 million) will be devoted to road and bridge improvement under the same formula.

This entire package is estimated to spend between \$150 and \$175 million on roads and bridges beginning this July

We have also "concurred" (to agree with) with the Senate on several bills and sent those to the governor to be signed into law. Among these is the Health Care Collaboration Act, which will allow the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) to enter into a health care collaborative with other health care entities throughout the state. Enactment of this legislation would permit UMMC to operate more like a business and provide more access to healthcare for rural community hospitals.

House members also sent the Back the Badge Act to the governor, which will double penalties for any crime committed against law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

Just two more weeks remain in the 2017 Regular Legislative Session, and we have a lot of ground to cover. Thank you for your support and for choosing me to represent you.

Prescription forgery ring busted

Special to The Clinton Courier

On March 13, the Clinton Police Department (CPD) responded to the CVS Pharmacy, located at 801 U.S. Highway 80 East in Clinton, in regards to a possible prescription fraud in progress. As the CPD officers arrived on scene, two suspects, Ranisha Longstreet and James Love, were sitting in a parked vehicle on the south side of the pharmacy.

A CPD detective entered the pharmacy and arrested Longstreet's husband, Anthony Beverly.

Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that Ranisha Longstreet had been employed at a hospital in Rankin County and is suspected of having stolen several blank prescriptions over an extended period of time. Anthony Beverly is suspected of forging the prescriptions, using various names as patient information.

This particular method of prescription fraud is known to the CPD, and, so far, it was determined that the three suspects have had over two thousand six hundred seventy (2,670) dosage units of hydrocodone/

acetaminophen filled.

The CPD began working the investigation in conjunction with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) due to the volume of controlled substance having been obtained fraudulently and possibly distributed by this particular group of suspects.

On the morning of March 15, the CPD and MBN executed a document search warrant at the residence of Longstreet and Beverly at 1037-B Whitworth Street in Jackson.

Inside, agents recovered consistent evidence indicating that Longstreet had been stealing blank prescriptions from her employer. Agents expect that the investigation will divulge additional patient names used by Longstreet and Beverly to forge the fraudulent prescriptions and expect the pill dosage count to grow significantly.

All three suspects are currently each being held on a \$250,000 bond. MBN Pharmaceutical Diversion agents will continue the investigation. Individuals with information regarding this case or other cases of prescription fraud are encouraged to contact the Clinton Police Department at 601-924-5252.