

***M Partner**

(Continued from page 1.)
 cities in the M Partner program, which is a transformative initiative outlined in the university's comprehensive strategic plan, Flagship Forward. The university and the city will collaborate to identify and address local projects ranging from health care and education, economic development and policy, marketing and tourism, and resiliency to core government systems.
 "The city of Lexington is grateful for the opportunity Chancellor Vitter and the University of Mississippi have provided for Lexington to serve as a pilot city in the M Partner initiative," McCrory said. "We look forward to the collaborative effort between the City of Lexington and the University of Mississippi to achieve

goals that will enhance quality of life for our citizens as a result of this transformative initiative, M Partner."
 Launched as a pilot program in 2018, M Partner will work with the inaugural cities for up to 24 months. During the pilot, communities will work with the university to define their needs and the two entities will collaborate on strategies to address them.
 "I'm very pleased the cities of Lexington and Charleston have been selected to participate in the M Partner program," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, Mississippi's 2nd district congressman. "A collaborative approach to community development and engagement is a great way to strengthen these communities and build resources that will be very useful today and in

the future. I appreciate the University of Mississippi's strong commitment to our state and these cities."
 The goal is to create "substantial and sustainable" results, which will be viable in the community for decades to come, Vitter said.
 The chancellor laid out the vision for the program in his November 2016 inaugural address, noting the considerable potential in channeling the talents of the university to support towns and cities as they collaborate to improve community life. This innovative partnership program seeks to match diverse and comprehensive university talent and ideas with community goals to create leveraged results across the full community.
 "M Partner represents a powerful and innovative way to address one of our fundamental responsibilities as an institution of higher education — building healthy and vibrant communities in Mississippi," Vitter said. "Working together, we will achieve substantial and sustainable advances in partner communities while enhancing learning and research at the university — all for the betterment of our state. We are so pleased to be launching this transformative initiative as a pilot program with Lexington."
 The goal is to create a mutually beneficial relationship through which the university and the community work together to co-create knowledge and ideas that improve quality of life in the long term. M Partner leverages a three-pronged approach to community partnership. It includes:

- A robust student service-learning component in which students and professors work alongside community members to achieve meaningful results in the community and enhance learning and teaching in the university
- Research and scholarship fueled by real-world challenges and informed by lessons learned from partners at the community level
- Engagement of univer-



Not a fan of check cashing companies
 Dear Dave,
 How do you feel about check cashing companies?
 Norman

Dear Norman,
 I'm not a big fan of check cashing companies. They're not nearly as bad as payday lenders, but it still seems kind of silly to me there's even a market for this kind of thing. If you want a place to cash your checks and store your money, all you have to do is walk into a bank and open an account.

I realize there's a small segment of the population that some people in financial circles like to call "the unbanked." This means that, for whatever reason, they avoid banks. That's their choice, but in the process, they leave themselves susceptible to bad deals.
 As I said, I don't feel the same way about check-cashing companies as I do about payday lenders. But it's still not a financially smart move to regularly pay a storefront operation fees just to cash your checks.

Here's a better idea
 Dear Dave,
 I'm 27 years old, and I have no debt. In addition, I have a five-month emergency fund of \$14,000. Recently, I started a new job making \$60,000. I've been offered a 401(k) with no match, but I was wondering if instead

I should open a high-yield CD.
 Kris
 Dear Kris,
 You're doing very well at a young age. Congratulations! I'm glad you're thinking about your financial future, too. But I've got a better idea.
 How about opening a Roth IRA with good growth stock mutual funds inside? That would be my choice. Fund it up to \$5,500 a year, and make sure the mutual funds have strong track records of at least 10 years. This investment — growing tax-free — will be superior to a non-matching 401(k) or certificate of deposit. If you want to invest even more, you could then put additional cash into the 401(k) offered by your company.
 With your income and maturity, plus the proper investment strategy, you're likely to retire a very wealthy lady. Keep up the great work, Kris!

Dave
 * Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including *The Total Money Makeover*. The *Dave Ramsey Show* is heard by more than 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.



The Durant Public Library will present Peter Zapletal's, artistic director, production of *The Princess and the Pea* on April 3, at 4:00 p.m. in the Durant High School Auditorium. The production is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts. This event is free and open to the public. The public is invited to bring family and friends. Come join in the fun and entertainment and learn more about the MAC grant program.
 (Photos submitted)

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 "I declared that I could not do a 'Radio Talk Show!' In fact, I said, "I would not publicly embarrass myself by trying." I also said, "I knew NOTHING to talk about!" But God said Different! The Rev. Tyrone Lindsey, Station Manager, and Mrs. Cathy Lockett, Station Owner, had urged me to "just try it!"
 March 14, 2014, "STRAIGHT TALK" with MISS ZEP" aired its first show. On Friday, March 16, 2018, we will celebrate the taping of 200 shows -- 400 airings -- twice per week on THE PEOPLES STATION -- WAGR 102.5 FM / WXTN AM 1000! Miss Zep THANKS GOD AND YOU! Keep Listening!

MISS ZEP MEETS HER PRESIDENT
 It was 2007, as I served the Obama Campaign with all my heart and strength, I missed my traditional annual health screenings on my birthday which is in June. In November 2007, after his historic win, I went for my health screenings and then to prepare to go to his inauguration. The screening revealed that I had BREAST CANCER. I missed the Obama's inauguration.
 As the announcement that President Obama had only 100 days left in his presidency, I was so saddened that I would not get the chance to meet him and Michelle. Congressman Bennie Thompson was made aware of my sad state and desire to meet the Obamas. The next thing I knew, I WAS GOING TO MEET THE PRESIDENT! WHOOPEE! It's called, "Favor." It is just "Favor!"



(From left) Congressman Bennie Thompson, MS 2nd District, Former First Lady Michelle Obama, Congressman's wife London Thompson, 44th President of the United States of America Barack H. Obama, Miss Zelpha Montgomery-Whately and Mr. Caleb J. Wahington at the 2016 Congressional Black Caucus Gala, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington D.C.
 (From left) Congressman Bennie Thompson, MS 2nd District and Miss Zelpha Montgomery-Whately at the 2016 Congressional Black Caucus Gospels Extravaganza, First Baptist Church, Washington D.C.

EXPRESS GRAIN COMMODITY PRICES

Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	May 18	2018 Mar	4.51	-0.52	3.99	-0.17
Wheat	Jul 18	2018 July	4.68	-0.22	4.46	-0.17
Milo	Dec 18	2018 Aug-Sep	3.98	-0.36	3.62	-0.06
Corn	May 18	2018 Mar	3.75	0.00	3.75	-0.08
Corn	Sep 18	2018 Aug	3.90	0.03	3.93	-0.07
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soybeans G'wood	May 18	2018 Mar	10.23	-0.14	10.09	-0.27
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	10.23	-0.12	10.11	-0.18
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rice	Mar 18		12.285			-0.175
Rice	Nov 18		11.595			-0.125
Cotton	May 18		81.23			-1.620
Cotton	Jul 18		81.52			-1.460

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