

Churches band together this No Menthol Sunday to help members find their way to tobacco-free freedom

MS Tobacco Free

When a menthol cigarette is inhaled, the smoker feels an immediate cooling sensation. The cool, minty taste that menthol gives feels light, and to some people exhaling the cloud of smoke feels relaxing.

However, that refreshing taste simply masks the strong taste of tobacco and more than 7,000 chemicals that are ingested with a single puff.

“The cooling properties of menthol make it a popular additive to toothpaste, cold remedies, and peppermint candies, too,” said Sharon Nettles, Director of the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Madison, Yazoo and Holmes Counties. “Menthol also reduces the harshness of tobacco smoke and the irritation of nicotine in cigarettes. Studies show that amounts of tar, nicotine and other toxins are 30 to 70 percent higher in inhaled menthol cigarettes than in non-mentholated cigarettes.”

Menthols are popular among African American smokers, more than 80 percent of whom use menthol cigarettes. About 30 percent of Latino smokers use menthol cigarettes and 20 percent of whites. The National African American Tobacco Pre-

vention Network (NAATPN) has set aside an observance day, No Menthol Sunday, to combat this issue. On Sunday, May 27, faith and public health leaders will unite in an effort to improve health outcomes for African Americans and anyone who would like to quit.

One of the many churches in the state observing No Menthol Sunday is Whole Armor Church of God in Christ (formerly known as Nicholson Temple Church of God in Christ) in Hattiesburg. The church of about 150 members will be presented with a tobacco awareness performance by youth; pass out pledge cards to commit to quitting smoking; and hand out church fans with Mississippi Tobacco Quitline information.

“We’ve been participating in this event for about three years now and we can tell that it has really been working for the children,” said the Christian Education Director, Elesha Buckley. “When they’re faced with the decision to smoke or not smoke, we want them to know the dangers so they make the right decision no matter where they are.”

Churches will be participating in various activities to highlight No Menthol Sun-

day, including neighborhood prayer walks, social media support, merchant outreach and corner store visits, and the opportunity to pledge to quit tobacco.

These churches will also get the opportunity to start a Tobacco-Free Church Grounds policy. Participating churches will not permit any tobacco use on their grounds; will post signage promoting a smoke-free environment; will promote tobacco prevention and cessation efforts; and provide cancer prevention materials.

“This year’s theme, Find Your Way to Freedom, encourages people to be aware of the many quit methods available and to be patient with the process of finding what works,” said Amy Winter, Director of the Office of Tobacco Control. “The long-term goal is to quit for good and remain free.”

For more information about No Menthol Sunday in Madison, Yazoo and Holmes Counties, visit www.naatpn.org/nmspledge.

For tobacco cessation information, contact Sharon Nettles at 601.497.9884, or visit www.healthymy.com/tobacco. You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MSTobacco-Free.

Unemployment down, jobs up from April 2017

The state unemployment rate is near historic low and the number of jobs is near historic high. This is the latest information announced Friday, May 18, by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

Mississippi’s unemployment rate in April 2018 was 4.6%, the second lowest level of unemployment ever recorded in Mississippi.

The April rate is one-tenth of a percentage point higher than a month earlier in March 2018, when the rate was 4.5% and seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than a year ago in April 2017, when the rate was 5.3%.

The Labor Force, which is made up of everyone who has a job or is looking for a job, increased in April by 1,400 to 1,275,200. Over the year since April 2017, the Labor Force fell by 7,100.

The number of people working in Mississippi rose in April by 500 to 1,217,000. For the year since April 2017, employment in our state increased by 2,600.

The number of unemployed Mississippians increased by 900 in April to 58,200; however, over the year since April 2017, the number of unemployed Mississippians decreased by 9,700.

The number of non-farm jobs in Mississippi edged downward by 1,100 in April to 1,164,500. The April 2018 job figure is the second highest number of jobs ever recorded in Mississippi.

Durant Summer Feeding Program

Durant Public School District, 65 West Madison Street, Durant, MS 39063 will hold its Summer Feeding Program beginning June 4, 2018 and ending June 29, 2018. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 and lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

All meals are free to all children age 18 years and younger. There is no fee/registration in accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability. USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information, you may contact Clara Ware, Food Service Supervisor, or Glenn Carlisle, Superintendent of Schools, at (662) 653-3910.

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2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Accona Water Association
PWS# 0260001
May 2018

We’re pleased to present to you this year’s Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact John Ellington at 662.770.9011. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Accona Water Association Office.

Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of the drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Accona Water Association have received a moderate susceptibility ranking to contamination.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2017. In cases where monitoring wasn’t required in 2017, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It’s important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we’ve provided the following definitions:

Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The “Goal”(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL		UNIT Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants									
10. Barium	N	2015*	.006	.005 - .006		ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
13. Chromium	N	2015*	2.1	2 - 2.1		ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2015/17	2	0		ppm	1.3	AL=13	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Lead	N	2015/17	1	0		ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts									
81. HAA5	N	2014*	14	No Range		ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
82. THM (Total Trihalomethanes)	N	2014*	9.93	No Range		ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine	N	2017	1.8	1.2 - 2.8		mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2017.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Complete regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems results all monitoring requirements, MSDOH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial organisms are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

The Accona Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future.

*Superintendent

(Continued from page 1) paperless human resources work environment and developed proper internal and external communication protocols.

Dr. Henderson spent most of his educational career in the Houston Independent School District (HISD), Houston, Texas. While serving as Area Superintendent of the District’s North/Acres Homes Administrative Sub-District, Dr. Henderson was named Texas’ Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus due to his sub-district’s academic performance. Seventy-five percent of the schools under his leadership were rated Exemplary, while the other 25% were rated academically acceptable in a 100% minority district. His sub-district was ranked number 2 of the 13 sub-districts in the Houston Independent School District. Dr. Henderson worked with the Board of Education and District’s leadership to galvanize public support to help pass a nearly one billion dollar bond project—all in an effort to address the infrastructure needs: restoration and/or new construction for schools throughout the district.

Moreover, as area superintendent, Dr. Henderson worked with his school board, the internal-district’s “twelve-member Charter School Board,” administration, staff, community and

city to implement key initiatives designed to provide enriched academic experiences for students, families and staff. These included PPK (early education programs for 3, 4 and 5 year old children) to narrow the achievement gaps and an intense focus on staff professional development, in an effort to grow and retain highly qualified teachers and staff.

“During Dr. Henderson’s interview, he laid out his Educational Plan for the Holmes County Consolidated School District; that’s when I knew, he had my vote! He has a proven track record of educational excellence for all children across this country and now he’s returning home to give back to the children of the Holmes community. We are proud of the contributions “our very own” has made for children in other parts of this county – but now, he gets to share his many areas of expertise with the children of his hometown,” said Board President, Rev Anthony Anderson.

Dr. Henderson has also served as an executive director of human resources, director of staffing, director of recruitment, personnel director, principal and a middle and high school Honors English and Speech Communication teacher. Among thousands of area middle school teachers, in the Houston Metropolitan area, he was selected as the Middle School Teacher of the Year

by the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators. He was also Teacher of the Year for HISD’s Hamilton Middle School and was a Teacher of the Year finalist for the Houston Independent School District, of more than 300 schools. His educational career has taken him to several states and cities throughout the country, on behalf of children and he continues to work for their benefit s a consultant with the Impeccable Resources Educational Firm.

Dr. Henderson said, “I am honored to be coming home to work with this Board of Education to advocate for and encourage the next generation of leaders. Holmes County is where it all started for me, so what better place to give back to, than HOME? I vividly recall a conversation held with Mrs. Dora Doretha Wiley, one of my many favorite high school teachers. She said: ‘Henderson, you should return home to give back to our community.’ Thanks for planting the seed, Mrs. Wiley, as you always did—I’m coming home! I look forward to working in tandem with the school board, students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff, appointed/elected officials and all external stakeholders.”

“Dr. Henderson has a proven record that indicates wisdom and knowledge and assures future success for our schools. His collabora-

tion with stakeholders will bring unity to our District,” said the Board’s Vice President, Mrs. Louise Winters of Durant.

The fifteenth child in a family of sixteen children, Dr. Henderson was the first child in his family to earn a college degree and he credits his parents and siblings for his educational success. He holds a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from Jackson State University and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas. He earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Supervision from St. John’s University in Queens, New York. He has also received post graduate superintendency training from Harvard University and most recently, he was one of twenty-five individuals selected among hundreds of applicants to participate in the renowned School Superintendents Association/Howard University Urban Superintendent Academy, in Washington D.C. Dr. Henderson and his wife, Victoria—also an educator—have two daughters Jalyn and Jayme, who attend the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The HC School District will host a Meet and Greet the Superintendent Night on Thursday, May 24 at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium of Holmes County Central High School in Lexington.