

# MS Dept. of Education updating teacher pay raise total

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is working with every school district in the state to verify the total number of MAEP-funded teachers and teacher assistants to update the cost of the teacher pay raise. Once finalized, the MDE will provide this information to lawmakers and work with them to obtain the additional funding for the pay raise.

“Let me be clear, all teachers and teacher assistants will receive their well-deserved pay raise,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “State-funded teachers will receive their raise with state funds. Federally funded teachers will receive their raise with their district’s federal funds.”

The MDE expects to have the total number of state-funded teaching positions and the funding amount finalized by mid-May.

Districts will be allocated enough money through the current appropriation to cover the monthly cost of the teacher pay raise. Legislative leaders have pledged to approve a deficit appropriation



**Living With Children**  
**By John Rosemond**  
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“When are you going to write a book on grandparenting?” is a question asked of me by lots of folks, most of

Information System (MSIS) that referenced MAEP-only funded teaching positions.

Based on feedback from district superintendents, the MDE conducted an additional review of the total number of state-funded teaching positions. During that review, the MDE determined there are additional state-funded teaching positions that MSIS does not capture as MAEP-funded positions. Due to this limitation of MSIS, these teaching positions were inadvertently excluded in the count that was used as the basis of the appropriation. The MDE’s review revealed that MSIS does not currently have the capability to collect locally-maintained, teacher-level funding source data.

The MDE requests funds annually from the Legislature to modernize MSIS, which was created in the 1990s. MDE’s FY20 appropriation includes \$500,000 to begin the process to modernize the statewide student information system.

# Adult Ed Students Earn Forklift Certifications



**The Holmes County Career and Technical Center completed its first Forklift Certification Training Program on March 28. The four-week adult training class was sponsored in part by Hunter Engineering, Inc., with additional support from the Burrows Paper Company. The twelve students who completed the Forklift Certification Training Program at the Holmes County Consolidated School District Career and Technical Center not only received their certificate of completion from the HCCTC—they also received Certification ID Cards and certifications from Daily Equipment. Students received instructional theory during classes as well as hands-on training of forklift operation safety. “Because of our community partnerships, we are preparing our high school students and adult learners with the skills necessary to compete in a global workforce,” said Shintri Hathorn, HCCTC Principal. Pictured above (from left): Kerry Shavers, Alphonzo Randle, Donyell Myles (certified instructor), Earl Haney, Victoria Williams, Shaquille Brown, Margaret Pate, Ashley McCallum, Jessica Jenkins, Timothy Greer and Larry Anderson.**

it or not)” book. Maybe my wife, Willie, will write that one, but not me. Besides, that book has been written already and I don’t think I could improve upon it.

Chrys Howard—her daughter Korie Robertson is the female lead on Duck Dynasty – has a lot more grandkids than she does kids, and as we say in the South, her grandkids love her to death (and the feeling is mutual). Like everything connected with the Duck Commander crew, Chrys is the real deal and so is “Rockstar Grandparent” (Waterbrook, \$15.99).

Written like an intimate conversation about Chrys’ grandparenting experience, “RG” is full of real-life anecdotes that reveal the heart of a grandmother who takes her matriarchal role in the family seriously. Chrys gives practical advice on how to be a fun grandparent, yes, but she always comes back to her main theme: family. She reminds us that grandparents

are the glue that holds a family together, an especially important role in times like these when family members are often living hundreds of miles away from one another.

Chrys also speaks from experience about the heartaches of death and divorce and how to move forward when tragedy strikes. She shares stories about opening her heart and home to children through adoption, foster care, and mentoring. She communicates the importance of standing strong on principles and being the example of right moral behavior.

All of this is done using songs from the sixties and seventies as jumping-off points which Chrys weaves deftly into each chapter topic. Songs like “The Sounds of Silence” (Simon and Garfunkle) and “Let it Be” (The Beatles) were anthems for the ‘60s teens who are now grandparents. The words from these songs will resonate with the reader bringing back fun memories as well

as themes for optimal grandparenting.

Whether you are just beginning this journey or consider yourself a seasoned pro, this book will inspire you to either “carry on” or “get moving.” The influence of grandparents in the lives of their grandchildren is largely a matter of what the grandparents choose to make of the opportunity to be a steady source of wisdom and counsel. This book will encourage and inspire lots of folks my age to make the most of an amazing opportunity.

*Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.*

MEMBER



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## JERRY LAMAR HOBSON

Jerry Lamar Hobson, 67, died May 2, 2019 at the MS Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. Visitation was held Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Southern Funeral Home in Lexington. Memorial services to follow at 2:00 p.m. also at the funeral home. Burial will be at a later date.

Jerry had retired from Lexington Homes where he had been production manager for 10 years.

He is survived by his wife Lynda; sons, Jeremy Hobson (Christy) of Decaturville, TN and Nick Hobson of Cleveland, TN; daughter Kelly Burelson (Greg) of Summertown, TN; sister Joyce Humphrey of Euless, TX; and grandchildren, Madison, Anisten, Reagan, Brilynn, Addyson, Lexi and Eliza-beth.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother.

## STEPHANIE DENISE WATERS

Ms. Stephanie Denise Waters, of Tchula, passed away on Monday, April 29, 2019 at Greenwood Leflore Hospital in Greenwood. She was 43 years old. She will be laid to rest on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Tchula Church of Christ on 53 Taylor Street in Tchula. Burial will immediately follow at Shiloh Church Cemetery in Carroll County. Visitation will be held on Friday, May 10, 2019 between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 390 East Madison Street in Durant. Services are entrusted to Affordable Funeral Home of Durant.

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In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jennifer Sterling Brown Animal Rescue of Holmes County, c/o Sterling Brown Starns, P.O. Box 927, Lexington, MS 39095.



whom – no surprise here – are grandparents.

My stock answer: “I might, someday, that is, but right now I’m working on some other projects that are taking up most of my time blah blah blah.”

Don’t get me wrong. I’ve thought about a book on grandparenting, and I may still write one. If I do, it may consist of real-life horror stories I’ve heard from grandparents around the USA (and, of course, my advice concerning each horror). These tales of woe aside, many Boomers are less-than thrilled with the way many of their children are parenting. It certainly deserves a book.

So, the bottom line is that I’m not going to write a “how to be the grandparent your grandkids want you to be (whether they know



### ST. JOSEPH C.O.G.I.C.

St. Joseph C.O.G.I.C. in West will host revival services from May 8 through May 10 at 7:30 nightly.

5-2;5-9

### TRIAD

The Holmes County TRIAD and Holmes County Crime Stoppers, will host the Annual TRIAD (The Right Information And Direction) Luncheon on Wednesday, May 29, at 9 a.m. in the Lexington Multi-Purpose Building on MS Highway 12 east. All senior citizens are invited to attend. For more informa-

tion call 662-834-1511.

5-9,16

### RICE CHAPEL

Rice Chapel CME Church in Durant will host its Spring Revival from May 13 through May 15 at 7:00 nightly.

5-2,9

### SECOND PILGRIM

Second Pilgrim Rest Church will host “100 Women in Hats Program” Sunday, on May 19 at 2 p.m.

5-9



Our family wishes to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to us following our sad loss of our loved one. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all. We are blessed to have such good friends. You have been a comfort and strength for our family.

The Family of  
Milton Hoover