

Monkey Business Allowed



The Durant Public Library continued with its summer reading programs by hosting Dorian LaChance (pictured above, standing) on Tuesday, June 11. LaChance along with Charlie the monkey showed up, entertained and engaged the kids by telling about the animals that went to space before any humans attempted it. LaChance also wowed the room with magic, stories, jokes and amazing facts about the solar system. Children present were: Conley Bryant, Brooklyn Hicks, Cole Allen, Ca’Neal Williams, Chelsea Williams, Kennedy Williams, Kingston Williams and Jagger Daves. Pictured at left, LaChance greets Lea Ellis (at left), librarian, and Christina Machost, assistant librarian. (Photos submitted)

Driver’s permit seekers can skip line in new program

MDPS
The Mississippi Department of Public Safety’s Driver Service Bureau is launching a new initiative called the JUMP START program that will include computer testing and processing for first time permits.
This program will better accommodate students and parents in getting a jump start on obtaining a Mississippi driver’s license. Beginning this summer, students may skip the wait to take a road test or computer testing for permits by simply calling or texting our Driver Service Bureau staff at the numbers listed below.
The qualifications are simple: 1) the student must be 15 years or older and eligible for first time permit testing and processing; 2) have a current driver’s permit for road test; and 3) be willing to schedule a time at one of our nine driver license locations. A permit holder scheduling a road test will still have to hold his/her driver’s permit for a period of one year from the issue date before obtaining the intermediate license; however, the student will be able to skip the road test at the time of the intermediate license issuance. If the student is ready to take the road test and has held a permit for

a period of one year, he/she will also be able to obtain a license through the JUMP START program’s designated hours.
The new JUMP START dates and hours will be the 2nd and 4th Saturdays beginning in the months of June, July and August from 8am-12pm. This time is set aside for students only. Future dates TBD.
You may participate in the JUMP START program at Driver Service Bureau offices located in Pearl, New Albany, Batesville, Greenwood, Starkville, Meridian, Hattiesburg, Biloxi, and Summit once confirmed by our staff members.
To guarantee a slot and get a JUMP START on getting your driver’s license, please text/call our staff in your respective area: Northern Region, Lieutenant Ronny Hall (662)416-3151; Central Region, Lieutenant Ola Kirk (662)299-3975; and Southern Region, Lieutenant Jason Ashley (601)744-6377.



MDE announces plans to award special needs scholarships

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) announced plans on June 11 to award Education Scholarship Accounts (ESA) for the 2019-20 school year.
Established by the Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act of 2015, the ESA program provides scholarships to parents of students with disabilities who want to remove their child from a public school to seek educational services elsewhere. ESA recipients are eligible to be reimbursed up to \$6,765 in 2019-20 for the cost of private educational services.
The legislative appropriation for 2019-20 provides for approximately 695 ESA accounts for the 2019-20 school year. The MDE anticipates that 415 ESAs will be used by students returning from the 2018-19 school year. Applicants who would like to be considered for the remaining 280 ESAs must apply by June 20, 2019.
ESAs will be awarded on a first come, first served basis and priority will be given to families that have previously submitted an eligible application but have not yet been awarded an ESA.
Letters will be mailed to new ESA recipients upon approval, no later than July 1, 2019. Applications received after June 20 will be reviewed and considered for approval on a rolling basis in accordance with the ESA law, until such time as 50% of the enrollment cap is reached.
To participate in the ESA program:
• The applicant must be a Mississippi resident;
• The student must have had an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) within five years of the date of application and;
• The parent must sign an agreement to adhere to the rules of participation.
Parents who are accepted into the program will be reimbursed quarterly after submission of a reimbursement request with proper documentation of expenses incurred.
Funds can also be paid quarterly directly to an educational service provider if approved by the parent.
For more information, visit www.mdek12.org/OSE/ESA or call the MDE Office of Special Education at 601-359-3498.

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

- June 20** - Al Langford, William Thomas Clark, Melissa Wallace, Lavelle Cheaham, Sara Loflin, Sophie Wentworth, Robert Swinney
June 21 - Glen O’Reilly, Wendy Gilmore, Mary Jobe, Kate Rosamond
June 22 - Jeanette Gilbert, Linda Keith, Charles Barrett, Brandon Cothran, Marshall Smith, Kristen Joe, Keaton Bates, Tish Stewart, Kristen Yawn, Isabella Lloyd, Violet Lloyd, Patricia W. Weatherly
June 23 - Sarah Horton, Matthew Lawson, Melanie Davis, Jolynn White, Carlton Aldridge, Amber McBride
June 24 - James Gusta Watson, Jr., Katie Diggs, Coleman Smith, Josh Macko, Brittany Blackstock
June 25 - Brian Gilmore, Anthony Newton, Wayne Bishop, Sherman Partain, Noah Burton, Nadine Marshall, Chris Hammett, Megan Macko, Joanne Jones, Doris June Jones
June 26 - Shaniyah Simmons, Patty Hood, James
- June 21** - Tommy and Diane Mitchell, Zachary and Sarah Emily Schutz
June 22 - Richard and Stephanie Barrett, Clayton and Brittany Edwards, Willie and Melissa Hooker, Brian and Tiffany Robinson
June 23 - David and Anna Lloyd, Tommy and Carla Garrett
June 24 - Ralph and Mary G. Hall, Josh and Brittany Allen, Andrew and Faye Roy
June 25 - Lyn and Virginia Nations, Cham and Angie Blain, Billy and Beverly Hathcock, Ray and Jeri Jo McCleskey
June 26 - Billy and Sylvia Wigley, Michael and Kacie Sanford

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email to hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

Mitchell, Jeff Holmes, Cindy Ainsworth Lunsford, Kelly J. Strider, Gage Hynum, Kelly Dodd, Regina Thornton

As). Dean’s List scholars are those with at least a 3.5 grade point average, but less than a 4.0.
Students recognized from the local area include the following (see below):
DURANT
Dean’s List: Cordaris Antioquine Frizell;

GOODMAN
Dean’s List: Akia t Washington and Alexius T Washington;
LEXINGTON
President’s List: Lamonica Antanet Jordan;
TCHULA
Dean’s List: Dominique Chantal Common.

Southern Miss announces spring honor students

The University of Southern Mississippi has released its President’s and Dean’s Lists for the 2019 spring semester.
The President’s List includes full-time students who earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average (all