



An Uncommon Call to an Uncommon Life

Each person is given something to do that shows who God is.
 1 Corinthians 12:7 MSG
 Da Vinci painted one Mona Lisa. Beethoven composed one Fifth Symphony.

And God made one version of you. He custom designed you for a one-of-a-kind assignment. Mine like a gold digger the unique-to-you nuggets from your life.
 When I was six years old, my father built us a house.



Dear Editor,

Summer is here – a time when we tend to relax our schedules and many take much needed vacations. However, when it comes to promoting health and wellness, there is never a good time to take a break. And for more than twenty years, The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi has been fighting traditional Big Tobacco and their tactics to engage our youth in using their products. But now, we have a new fight on our hands with these companies and others, as they expand into e-cigarette and vaping products.

Our kids are once again being targeted by the insidious nicotine pushers and our youth vaping rates have increased at a staggeringly high rate. Nicotine is a highly addictive drug – Yes, drug! With respect to our kids, the adults need to wise up and understand that the non-cigarette delivery of nicotine is NOT less harmful and in fact, may prove to be more so in the long run. We do not fully understand the long-lasting effects of these products but we do know that they deliver nicotine and there is no safe way to addict a kid to nicotine.

Vaping is smoking! Although vaping products do not contain traditional tobacco leaves, the most popular brand’s liquid vape pods contain as much addictive nicotine as one pack of traditional cigarettes. Currently, The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi is engaged in a traditional

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Obituaries

WILLIAM FELTON MCNEESE SR.
 William Felton McNeese, Sr., 61, of Madison, MS, formerly of Pickens, MS, passed away on Monday, June 24, 2019. Visitation will be held on Saturday, June 29 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 7717 Old Canton Road, Madison, MS. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 30 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Madison. Natchez Trace Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

CHARLES LEE PICKLE
 Charles Lee Pickle of Durant, MS passed away on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Southern Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

NOTICE
 The regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Tchula on Thursday, July 4, has been changed. The meeting will now be held on Thursday, July 11, 2019. at 6:00 p.m. at the Robert G. Clark City Hall complex.



Architectural Digest didn’t notice, but my mom sure did. Dad constructed it, board by board, every day after work. My youth didn’t deter him from giving me a job. He tied an empty nail apron around my waist, placed a magnet in my hands, and sent me on daily patrols around the building site, carrying my magnet only inches off the ground.

One look at my tools and you could guess my job. Stray-nail collector.

One look at yours and the same can be said. Brick by brick, life by life, God is creating a kingdom, a “spiritual house” (1 Pet. 2:5 CEV). He entrusted you with a key task in the project. Examine your tools and discover it. Your ability unveils your destiny. “If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 4:11). When God gives an assignment, he also gives the skill. Study your skills, then, to reveal your assignment.

Look at you. Your uncanny ease with numbers. Your quenchless curiosity about chemistry. Others stare at blueprints and yawn; you read them and drool. “I was made to do this,” you say.

Heed that inner music. No one else hears it the way you

do. What about you? Our Maker gives assignments to people, “to each according to each one’s unique ability” (Matt. 25:15). As he calls, he equips. Look back over your life. What have you consistently done well? What have you loved to do? Stand at the intersection of your affections and successes and find your uniqueness.

You have one. A divine spark. An uncommon call to an uncommon life. “The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others” (1 Cor. 12:7 CEV). So much for the excuse “I don’t have anything to offer.” Did the apostle Paul say, “The Spirit has given some of us ...”? Or, “The Spirit has given a few of us ...”? No. “The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.” Enough of this self-deprecating “I can’t do anything.”

And enough of its arrogant opposite: “I have to do everything.” No, you don’t! You’re not God’s solution to society, but a solution in society. Imitate Paul, who said, “Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God’s plan for us” (2 Cor. 10:13 NLT). Clarify your contribution.

Don’t worry about skills you don’t have. Don’t covet strengths others do have. Just extract your uniqueness.

“Kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you” (2 Tim. 1:6 NASB).

From *Cure for the Common Life: Living in Your Sweet Spot*.

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*Fred’s Inc.

(Continued from page 1.)
 Fred’s decision to close additional underperforming stores follows a continued evaluation of the company’s store portfolio, including historical and recent store performance and the timing of lease expirations, among other factors.

Fred’s will continue its partnership with Malfitano Advisors, LLC and SB360 Capital Partners to help manage the process and ensure a seamless experience for customers.

A full list of store closings can be found at www.fredsinc.com

Married women to compete in Mrs. MS Pageant

Press Release

The 2019 Mrs. Mississippi Pageant, a statewide pageant for married women, will be held the weekend of August 2-4, with finals on Sunday, August 4, at 3:00 p.m. at Tupelo Middle School in Tupelo, MS.

To qualify, contestants must be at least 18 years of age, married, a resident of her state (residency at a military base or dual-residency is acceptable), and of good moral character. Contestants will be judged in four categories including personal interview, beauty, fitness wear and evening gown, each worth 25% of her total score. There are additional awards given for Fitness Award, Interview Award, Evening Gown Award, Photogenic Award, Congeniality Award and Top Ad Sales.

Mrs. Mississippi will be awarded a prize package that includes cash and sponsor gifts. The Mrs. Mississippi Pageant celebrates all that the contemporary married woman represents...whether her days are focused on family, career, civic duties or a combination of all.

Pageant judges will be looking for contestants who are not only beautiful, but articulate and well-rounded.

For more information about becoming a contestant in the 2019 pageant, email the state director, Caitlin Jadofsky, at mrsmississippipageant@gmail.com or visit www.mrsmississippipageant.com.

MEMBER

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Matthew Breazeale..Editor Julie Ellison.....Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 In Holmes County - \$35.00

In Mississippi - \$40.00

Outside Mississippi - \$50.00

TRINITY M.B. CHURCH
 Trinity M.B. Church will host the pastor’s 19th anniversary on Sunday, July 7 at 1:30 p.m.
 6-20,27

BEULAH BAPTIST
 Beulah Baptist Church in Lexington will have Vacation Bible School for kids ages 3 up to 6th grade, July 8-12, at 8:30 a.m. each day. VBS Family Night will be Friday, July 12 at 6 p.m. For more information 662-528-1053.
 6-20,27

MUSEUM/MS DELTA
 The Museum of the Mississippi Delta in Greenwood will host a new exhibit, “Surroundings: Paintings by Jaime Tate” from June 20 through August 24. Contact Cheryl Thornhill for more information at 662-453-0925.
 6-20,27

FBC DURANT
 First Baptist Church in Durant will host its Fifth Sunday Singing on June 30 at

6 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Refreshments will follow. Singers should call the church office to be added to the line-up, at 662-653-3105.
 6-20,27

SWEET HOME M.B.C.
 Sweet Home M.B. Church will host its 138th Year Homecoming Services on Sunday, July 7 at 11 a.m.
 6-27;7-4

ST. MATTHEW COGIC
 St. Matthew C.O.G.I.C. will host its homecoming program on Sunday, July 7 at 2 p.m.
 6-27;7-4

LONG BRANCH M.B.C.
 Long Branch M.B. Church in West will host its Pastor’s 1st Year Anniversary on Sunday, July 14 at 2 p.m.
 6-27;7-4

LEXINGTON LIBRARY
 A petting zoo will be visiting the Lexington Public Library from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, as part of “A Universe of Stories” summer library program.

This free program is sponsored by Friends of the Lexington Public Library. Weekly programs are geared to children ages 6-12. Children under 9 years of age who attend the programs MUST be accompanied by a parent/responsible caregiver and the caregiver must be at least 12 years old or older. For further program information, call 662-834-2571.
 6-27

POPULAR SPRING
 Popular Spring M.B. Church will host its 153rd Year Church Anniversary on Sunday, July 14, at 10:45 a.m.
 6-27;7-4

NEWPORT M.B.C
 Newport M.B. Church in Lexington will host its Combined Sunday School on June 30 at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Prayer breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 13, at 10 a.m. at the Walter Bruce Community Center in Durant.
 6-27;7-4