

*New Staff

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School; Kenya Horn, Co-ordinator of Counseling Services and CCR; Dr. Jason Sargent, coordinator of Testing and Accountability; and Shimelle Mayers, co-ordinator: science.

Staff Changes

Eddie Allen, principal at Durant Elementary School; Arnedra Floyd, instructional coach at DES; Kawanna Horton, program liaison at Graduates Within Reach Academy; Antwayn Patrick, interim assistant

principal at HCCHS; Valerie Bankhead, instructional coach at WSMS; Frederick LaFlore, assistant principal at S.V. Marshall Elementary School; Sherrita Lacy instructional coach at SVME; Benjamin Torrey, special assistant to the superintendent; Cheryl Peoples, coordinator of Business Services and Operations; Carol Stone, coordinator of Family Support Services; Deborah Antoine, coordinator: Fine Arts and Instructional Technology; and Jessica Quinn, coordinator: Social Studies.

EXPRESS GRAIN COMMODITY PRICES						
Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Change	Price
Wheat	Jul 20	2020 Jun	5.40	-0.40	5.00	-0.13
Corn	Sep 19	2019 Jul	4.41	-0.03	4.38	-0.13
Corn	Sep 19	2019 Aug	4.41	-0.01	4.42	-0.13
Corn	Sep 20	2020 Aug	4.25	-0.14	4.11	-0.06
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 19	2019 Aug	9.20	-0.20	9.00	-0.09
Soybeans G'wood	Aug 19	2019 Jul	9.02	-0.24	8.78	-0.12
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 19	2019 Aug	9.20	-0.01	9.21	-0.12
Soybeans G'wood	Jan 20	2020 Jan	9.32	-0.09	9.23	-0.11
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 19	2019 Aug	9.20	-0.12	9.08	-0.12
Rice	Sep 19		11.885			-0.020
Rice	Nov 19		12.045			-0.015
Cotton	Oct 19		63.70			1.340
Cotton	Dec 19		63.95			1.270

Prices as of 2:00 p.m. on 7/15/19

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The City of Durant is considering applying for rehabilitation funds from the Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) HOME Investment Partnerships Program- Homeowner Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Program. The State of Mississippi has allocated approximately \$3 million that will be made available to cities, and counties, on a competitive basis to undertake homeowner rehabilitation /reconstruction activities.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of affordable housing for low and very-low-income persons. The City of Durant proposes to apply for grant funds through the (MHC) HOME Rehabilitation Grant Program. More specific details regarding eligible activities, program requirements, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at the City of Durant City Hall located at 253 West Mulberry Street, Durant, Mississippi on Friday August 2, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application. The location for the hearing is a handicapped accessible facility. All comments are welcome and must be submitted in writing. If a translator is needed for non-english speaking persons, please contact John Wiggers at (662)283-2675 at least 5 days prior to the meeting in an effort to accommodate this request

The City of Durant does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs or activities.

Kosy All Stars head to World Series

Team includes two youths from Lexington



The 5-6 year Kosy (Kosciusko) All Stars will head to the Mississippi Dixie Youth baseball tournament held in Brookhaven on Thursday, July 18, to play in the World Series. The Kosy All-Stars won district in Philadelphia, placing third in state and will now compete at the World Series. Pictured at bottom (left to right): Holt Fancher, Rye Edwards, Truett Vance, Brayden Langford, of Lexington, and Houston Cain; Standing (left to right): Noah Carter, Drew Durff, of Lexington, Matthew Holdiness, Tripp McGee, Reed Tillman, Lawson McDaniel and Mac McCool. Coaches are (left to right): Dr. Samuel Holdiness, Wes Carter (head coach), Jason Vance and Matthew McCool.

(Photo submitted)

*Upgrades

(Continued from page 1.)
power to industrial users in the aftermath of an EF2 tornado that struck the town in 2017,” the letter reads. “The electrical improvements that are needed throughout the city will also improve the conditions for economic development for businesses and industries within the area.”

The project is slated to improve conductor and appurtenances to “Recloser 43 Circuit on Washington Street, Recloser 12 Circuit on Castalian Springs Road and along Highway 12 and Northwest Avenue.”

Right-of-Way (ROW) clearing was also listed in proposed projects. In previous years, Robinson said overhanging limbs and trees caused significant issues and power disruptions in Durant, including Hunter Engineering.

“...pole line equipment replacement/repair, capacitor bank repair and configuration and new ROW clearing equipment for line crews,” were also proposed projects. The improvements are for the entire electrical system in Durant.

The mayor’s office received the award letter on June 27 and has 30 days to resubmit with requested from to the department of commerce’s regional office in Atlanta. Robinson said he was looking for work to

begin by September or October after all the award requirements have been met. The city will announce when contract bids for the work will be accepted.

“All we have to do now,” said Robinson, “is complete our requests for proposals (RFP), get our contractors in to look at the work and see what the projects entail. Whoever does the job, sometimes it’s the cheapest sometimes it’s just whoever can do the job the best.”

Robinson estimated it has been over 20 years since Durant’s electrical system was last modernized.

Disruptions of electrical service for residents and businesses should be at a minimum as work starts.

“The power should not go out,” Robinson explained, “they’ll have relays that were put in a few years ago, before my administration. We’ve already updated parts of the system. There may be some instances where (electricity) would be shut off, but we’ll let out customers know in advance. It won’t be for a long period of time.”

“This is just a great opportunity to improve our infrastructure and hopefully get more industry in to improve our economic situation in the city,” said Robinson.

The mayor also mentioned ongoing talks over the past months between the city and a potential restaurant to open in the city limits. “It’s

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

With the beginning of the school year right around the corner, it is crucial for everyone to remember the importance of safe behavior around railroad tracks. Every single day in 2013, someone died as a result of trespassing on railroad tracks. In fact, in 2018 there were a total of twelve tragic deaths in our state according to safety data provided by the Federal Railroad Administration.

The only safe and legal place to cross the tracks is where there is a designated crossing. Beyond the legal ramifications of a fine or ticket, there is also a very real risk of serious injury and possible death any time you attempt to beat a train or walk anywhere within the railroad right-of-way.

Every time you take a shortcut through the train yard, climb through or under a train that has been sitting there for a while or

like a drive-thru, kind of like Sonic’s, but it’s not Sonic’s,” Robinson hinted.

Continental Tire, which has a location in Clinton, also has expressed interest in locating to Durant.

drive around the crossings arms that are down, you’re exposing yourself -- and train crews -- to a lifetime of suffering for the possibility of saving a few minutes. It’s just not worth it. Don’t forget, too, that train tracks were never designed for fishing, hunting, ATVing or any other recreational activity. Even if a train isn’t there, your risk for injury in the track gauge is enormous.

Please help us spread the railroad safety message of Mississippi Operation Lifesaver by being a rail safety role model. Always cross at designated crossings and tell your friends and family to do the same. Never allow distractions to take your attention away when you’re around train tracks. Remember, alcohol and train tracks make for a deadly mix. Log on to SeeTracksThinkTrain.org and start educating yourself about rail safety and share what you learn with someone.

And remember whenever you see tracks, always think train.

Kimble Sloan
Executive Director
Mississippi
Operation Lifesaver