

Mississippi Arts Commission to provide emergency grants through South Arts Fund

Press Release
The Mississippi Arts Commission announces the roll-out of the “South Arts Organizational Impact Grant” program as part of its continued efforts to provide relief to Mississippi’s arts sector due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.
These “invite-only” grants are made possible through special funding provided by the National Endowment for the Arts through South Arts. The grant will assist eligible small to mid-sized non-profit arts organizations with economic relief during the COVID-19 pandemic.
MAC received a total of \$60,000 from its regional partner South Arts to establish the grant program.
The agency intends to distribute the funding as quickly as possible to provide economic relief.
As an invite-only grant, eligible arts organization invited to apply for South Arts Organizational Impact Grants will be contacted directly by MAC through its eGrant system.
“We are very grateful to our partner South Arts for

providing us with a portion of their CARES Act funding from the NEA, which will undoubtedly help the state’s arts organizations weather this crisis,” said Malcolm White, executive director of MAC. “The arts sector faces significant economic challenges as the pandemic lingers. As such, recovery funding is essential to help keep these organizations alive so we can enjoy the arts now and in the future.”
The South Arts Organizational Impact Grant provides support for small to mid-size arts organizations and is the latest in a series of grants the agency has made available to Mississippi’s arts sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information on MAC’s COVID-19-related grant opportunities can be found at arts.ms.gov/MAC-CARES.
Additional COVID-19 information and resources for the arts sector is available on MAC’s COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness page.
For more information on MAC’s grants programs and other services, visit the agency’s website at arts.ms.gov.

Google selects Mississippi site for 1st US operations center

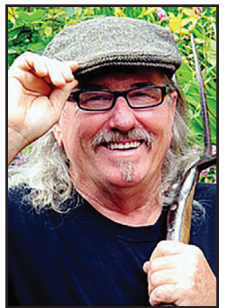
Associated Press
Google’s first U.S. operations center is coming to northwest Mississippi.
The company announced Thursday it will lease a new 60,000-square-foot (5,574 square-meter) facility in Southaven, Mississippi, near Memphis, Tennessee. Google expects the site, which will provide customer and operations support to customers worldwide, to be operational by summer 2021.
“This Google Operations Center represents a critical investment for the company and we look forward to being an active member of the local community for years to come,” said Troy Dickerson, vice president of Google Operations Center. “The new site will give us the opportunity to hire amazing local talent and we are confident that the Southaven community will be a great home for our Operations Center.”
Employees will provide

customer service to Google users by handling product troubleshooting, among other tasks. The company has kicked off recruiting efforts and intends to hire 100 employees by the end of the year.
“Google is a titan in the global economy and we are honored to have their first-class operation in our city,” said Southaven Mayor Darren Musselwhite.
Google’s other operations centers are located in India and the Philippines.
“This is a true testament to our skilled workforce and the increasing economic strength of our great state,” Gov. Tate Reeves said. “Mississippi and the Southaven community welcome Google with open arms, and we look forward to growing this partnership and creating opportunities for success for years to come.”
Construction on the Southaven site is set to begin in the coming months.



Daily purpose is found in summer tending

It’s true, the old adage that gardening is good for us, and one of the upsides of Covid-related restrictions is that I’ve had ample opportunity to give it more practice.
Even small efforts pay off. You know, fresh air, calorie burning, vitamin D and serotonin boosts, connecting with nature, improved mental acuity and emotional well-being, maybe even harvesting a little home-grown goodness. Just tending a potted plant connects and relaxes.
Not that I’ve turned into a dedicated mini-farmer; had enough of that as a kid. Until recently I’ve mostly just stuck a few pepper and okra plants in with flowers and hope they produce something other than just prettiness. For over twenty years I’ve stuck with this “kitchen garden” approach, a mixed potager of flowers, herbs, and vegetables. It’s easy, productive, requires few tools, and looks good.
Besides, for over a decade I’ve lived overseas for the entire summer, making it impractical to plant stuff I wouldn’t harvest. Ditto for tending a lawn; I no longer have one because I’m usually too gone to mow.
This year, however, is different; because of travel restrictions, I have the opportunity and time to dabble with summer vegetables. Trying to see if this horticulturist is more than just book learning; I can talk the talk, but can I walk the walk?
Most newbies I see these days, raised in an era of declining interest in traditional gardening and having little time or inclination to garden in earnest, are experimenting in soil-filled pots and boxes, often in their front yards as a sort of a badge of camaraderie.
So, this summer I’m doing the same. Instead of my previous approach of planting edibles only as miscellaneous landscape plants, sticking a few culinary herbs



FELDER RUSHING

*New Headmaster

(Continued from page 1.)
evolving, according to Burton.
“I’ve spent time on the phone with different headmasters, friends of mine whom I’ve coached against, we’ve discussed ideas. What works for one school may not work for another.”
School will start at Central Holmes with half a day on August 5 and a full day on August 6.
“Our plan is to be as normal as possible,” said Burton. “We’re all ready to be back to some normalcy - normal as possible with safety in mind.”
Burton also shared his philosophy for smooth

operations in the coming school year.
“I have high expectations for faculty and students,” said Burton. “I firmly believe good discipline helps with the learning process. I will stay firm with policies and procedures. I care about the kids in every aspect, not just that they learn something, like math, English, history or science. Students should learn how to do the right thing. I want them to develop a good foundation from Biblical principles and so the teachers can maintain control. Not only are we trying to educate them, book sense, but we want them, at some point, to be good fathers and husbands, good mothers and wives. These are some of those well-rounded aspects, not just what’s in a book.”

Obituaries

VIOLET TILLMAN
Violet Tillman, 68, of Lexington, was laid to rest on July 7, 2020. Graveside services were held at Greenlawn Cemetery in Lexington. Services were entrusted to Affordable Funeral Home of Durant.

BOBBY MCCLELLAN
Bobby McClellan, 80, of West, passed on July 11, 2020. Graveside services will be held at West Baptist Church Cemetery in West on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will be held Friday, July 17, 2020 between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 300 West Madison St. in Durant. Services are entrusted to Affordable Funeral Home of Durant.



OUR HOUSE INC.
Monthly online chat is available for sexual assault victims/survivors in the Mississippi Delta area, the third Monday of each month. Safe Online Space (SOS) for Healing Conversations, Monday, July 20, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Visit www.ourhouse-voices.com



Mixed summer veggies

and veggies in flowerbeds and hoping they would survive on their own ‘til late summer, this spring I actually planted a horticultural ratatouille of vegetables that need tending and regular harvesting.
I cobbled together and painted a long, narrow raised bed and well-spaced bamboo teepees (also painted) for climbing beans. In between I alternated small patches of corn, sweet potatoes, peppers, squash, zucchinis, and eggplant, plus butterfly-attracting zinnias everywhere.
And it has largely worked. As a friend said, “the ratatouille is in the pot,” so I’ve begun combining my small harvests with my home-grown herbs and already-harvested garlic, plus some store-bought onions, in a sizzling pan of olive oil. And I feel as good as it tastes.
By the way, for a good general guide for growing vegetables in Mississippi, check out MSU Extension Services’ Garden Tabloid, a bottom-line source of Mississippi-specific information on all things vegetables. Find it by going online at msucare.com and typing

Garden Tabloid in the search box.
Anyway, my little garden has bestowed an extra dab of daily purpose, helped keep me on level ground, inspired me with something to think about besides the nonstop salvos of news about politics and pandemics.
And, not surprisingly, it has improved both my diet and waistline; eating a little better and working just a little each morning has helped me lose a dozen pounds (!!), which in turn has helped ease the mental and emotional toll of being cooped up at home.
And because in the South we can garden year-round, there’s plenty of time to replant when it’s done. So, though I am in the midst of my first harvest, I’m already planning for Autumn.
Without exactly pining for the cool climate of my English garden, I do wish it wasn’t so humid here that admiring my garden has to be done through sweat dripping from my brow.
Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the “Gestalt Gardener” on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to rushingfelder@yahoo.com.

MEMBER

MISSISSIPPI PRESS ASSOCIATION (USPS 247-680)
HOLMES COUNTY HERALD
Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, Mississippi by Holmes County Herald Lexington, Mississippi.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Holmes County Herald, P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095. Published each Thursday at 308 Court Square, Lexington, MS 39095. Telephone 662-834-1151; Fax 662-834-1074; Email hherald@gmail.com; Website www.holmescountyherald.com
Matthew Breazeale..Editor
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ATTENTION PARENTS: You will need to schedule an appointment for your child to receive school immunizations this year, from Tuesday, July 28 through Friday, July 31. Call the Holmes County Health Department to make an appointment, 662-834-3142.