

Transition to eWIC card continues

Food centers closing throughout Delta

Press Release

Due to the transition to a retail food system via an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is preparing to close 13 food centers. These food centers have low participant usage, or the landlord has chosen not to continue the lease.

Twelve food centers, including those located in Rosedale, Ruleville, Okolona, Ackerman, Hollandale, Leland, Raymond, Dekalb, Raleigh, Eupora, Columbus and Southaven are scheduled to close September 30. One food center located in New Albany is scheduled to close December 31.

Food centers located in Rosedale, Ruleville, Okolona, Ackerman, Hollandale, Leland, Raymond, Dekalb and Raleigh are being closed due to low participant usage. Food centers located in New Albany, Eupora, Columbus, and Southaven are being closed per landlord request, as these leases are scheduled to expire September 30.

“We are continuing to seek alternate locations in Columbus and Southaven,” said Diane Hargrove, Director of the MSDH WIC program. “We are also surveying WIC participants in New Albany and Eupora to determine unique ways to deliver food benefits and ensure access.”

The last date for WIC participants to pick up foods at the sites closing September 30 is August 28, and the last date for participants to pick up at the food center closing December 31 is November 25. However, participants are still eligible to pick up at any other food center they have access to in the state.

As the WIC program prepares to begin the transition from the use of paper food vouchers at food centers to the use of eWIC cards at retail grocery stores and pharmacies, it’s also working hard to ensure participants still have access to the supplemental foods they qualify for. The eWIC card will be piloted as early as January 2021.

“We know this will be a challenge for some of our participants and we are doing everything that we can to supply them nutritious foods the best way that we can during this transition,” said Jameshya Ballard, WIC Vendor Director.

The goal of the WIC program is to provide nutrition education, breastfeeding support and supplemental food for eligible pregnant, post-partum and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to the age of 5.

The MSDH WIC program is working to ensure participants have an available food center within 30 miles of each WIC clinic.

Follow MSDH by e-mail and social media at www.HealthyMS.com/connect.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy modifies organizational structure to support USPS mission

Three operating units created to increase efficiency and better serve customers

Press Release

In an effort to operate in a more efficient and effective manner and better serve customers, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy today announced a modified organizational structure for the U.S. Postal Service.

The new organization will align functions based on core business operations and will provide more clarity and focus on what the Postal Service does best; collect, process, move and deliver mail and packages.

The new organizational structure is focused on three business operating units:

Retail and Delivery Operations — basic mission: Accept and deliver mail and packages efficiently with a high level of customer satisfaction. This organization will be led by Kristin Seaver.

Logistics and Processing Operations — basic mission: Process and move mail and packages efficiently to the delivery units, meeting service standards. This organization will be led by David Williams.

Commerce and Business Solutions — basic mission: Leverage infrastructure to enable growth. This organization will be led by Jacqueline (Jakki) Krage Strako.

DeJoy also announced the appointment of Scott Bombaugh as acting Chief Technology Officer, Steve Monte-

ith as acting Chief Customer and Marketing Officer, and Pritha Mehra as acting Chief Information Officer. For the complete executive leadership team, please see about.usps.com/who/leadership/officers/.

“This organizational change will capture operating efficiencies by providing clarity and economics of scale that will allow us to reduce our cost base and capture new revenue,” said Postmaster General and CEO Louis DeJoy. “It is crucial that we do what is within our control to help us successfully complete our mission to serve the American people and, through the universal service obligation, bind our nation together by maintaining and operating our unique, vital and resilient infrastructure.”

As part of the modified organizational structure, logistics and mail processing operations will report into the new Logistics and Processing Operations organization separate from existing area and district

reporting structures. This includes all mail processing facilities and local transportation network offices. Splitting operations into these two organizations is designed to allow for improved focus and clear communication channels.

These organizational changes do not initiate a reduction-in-force, and there are no immediate impacts to USPS employees. However, to prepare for future changes,

the Postal Service has implemented a management hiring freeze and will be requesting future Voluntary Early Retirement Authority from the Office of Personnel Management for employees not represented by a collective bargaining agreement.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.


Congressman Thompson announces \$2 million awarded to planning and development districts

Press Release

On Thursday, August 13, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded \$2 million to planning and development districts to boost economic development programs critical to helping Mississippi respond to coronavirus.

North Central Planning

and Development District, Inc. was awarded \$400,000. Funds will be used to respond to the coronavirus pandemic by working to diversify the region’s economy; facilitating entrepreneurial activities; and supporting workforce development in Attala, Carroll, Grenada, Holmes, Leflore, Montgomery, and Yalobusha counties.



Bridal Registry

Shiloh Wammack
Cody McCrory
August 22

**Howell & Heggie
Drug Co.**

389 N. W. Depot St.
Durant
662-653-6441

Several positive, substantial goals met during 2020 legislative session

By Delbert Hosemann Mississippi Lt. Governor

At the end of every session, our office takes an inventory of the legislative changes for which we successfully advocated and the items we need to put back on the to-do list.

COVID disrupted some of our plans this year and provided the Legislature with additional appropriation and other responsibilities. Even amidst the pandemic, a number of positive pieces of legislation were passed.

In education, we eliminated a major barrier to teacher licensure which will clear the way for hundreds of students to enter teacher education programs in colleges and universities. Now, a student’s GPA in their first two years of courses determines whether they are permitted to begin the process of becoming a teacher, which experts say is the best predictor of success.

We addressed problems in our mental health system, providing a coordinator

with the authority to review the availability of current services and establish procedures to increase access and raise standards. We also provided additional funding aimed at decreasing hospitalization and focusing on quality community care.

In the interest of reorganizing and maximizing efficiency, we abolished two government entities, the Fair Commission and Commission on Marine Resources. We retooled driver’s services to speed up the licensing process by instituting a fee reduction for long wait times.

The State Workforce Investment Board was reconstituted, reducing the number of board members, requiring small business representation, and beefing up responsibility and accountability. The state’s new workforce “czar” will be responsible for maximizing the impact of every dollar we spend on training citizens for higher wage jobs. An additional \$55 million

was dedicated to workforce development.

Additionally, we championed various bills addressing COVID including limiting liability for businesses and healthcare entities facing frivolous lawsuits. A small business grant program received \$300 million from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund. \$200 million was appropriated to distance learning and connectivity for K-12 students; \$130 million for hospitals, nonprofits, and various other healthcare entities; \$100 million to universities and community colleges; \$75 million to expand rural broadband; and \$70 million to cities and counties.

Although we have more we want to accomplish in the coming years, we built a solid foundation for positive change in the last seven months. All of this is part of the path to our ultimate objective going forward: making Mississippi an even better place for our children and grandchildren.

SPECIAL ELECTION - HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVEMBER 3, 2020 QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF DISTRICT 3 PICKENS, GOODMAN, EBENEZER & COXBURG

AUGUST 5, 2020
QUALIFYING PERIOD BEGINS FOR HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 3 - SPECIAL ELECTION

The first day qualifying period begins for Office of School Board is August 5. The first day August 5 - candidates may file petitions and/or qualifying statements for the Office of District 3 Holmes County Consolidated School District 3. (MS Code Annotated 37-5-9, 37-J-211J 37-7-225, 37-7-711).

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020
QUALIFYING DEADLINE, 5:00PM FOR HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 3 - SPECIAL ELECTION

The candidates qualifying deadline for the Office of School Board - District 3, Holmes County Consolidated School District. is September 4, @ 5PM. (MS Code Ann 37-5-9, 37-7-211, 37-7-225, 37-7-711).

IF QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE @ Telephone:834-5028.

**Submitted by,
Earline Wright-Hart, Circuit Clerk**