

Utility disconnections suspended through May 14

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The Mississippi Public Service Commission conducted their monthly docket meeting in April to discuss pending matters on the docket. The meeting was held telephonically to comply with Executive Order 1466 and state and federal social distancing guidelines.

One of the agenda items considered by the Commission was a review of the Order passed by the Commission on March 15 that temporarily suspended disconnections of certain utility services for sixty days, including water, sewer, electricity and gas services. The original action was taken in response to Governor Tate Reeves's Declaration of a State of Emergency on March 14, 2020, and requests by the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency regarding the spread of COVID-19. The Order required the Commission to revisit the matter thirty days after passage.

"Today, the Commission voted to keep in place through at least May 14 the Order suspending utility disconnections. We recognize this could potentially place a burden on utility companies following the sixty days. I thank these utilities for taking additional measures to help customers during this time as we all continue to work together through the COVID-19 health emergency," Commissioner Bailey said. "I also want to remind customers that in no way does this temporary order eliminate their responsibility of paying their bills. But in times of economic hardship, this order has provided customers with additional time and opportunities to work with their service providers to set up payment plans to avoid extreme balances at the end of the sixty days."

Study Club holds February meeting

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The Clinton Study Club met for February in the home of Carolyn Cannon. This year, the club's study theme, provided by program chairman Paula Wimbish, is "The Best of the Best: Extraordinary People in Time." Member Peggy Cudd gave a presentation on the world-renowned scientist Albert Einstein. Members present were Barbara Barnett, Betty Byrne, Carolyn Cannon, Peggy Cudd, Emily Fokeladeh, Mary Ann Greene, Doris Lepard, Dixie Lloyd, Barbara Parks, Judi Reynolds, Rowland Roberts, Mary Simpson, Lynda Williams, Paula Wimbish and Becky Wright.

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Clinton High School's Class of 2020 to have unique graduation ceremony

The changes alleviate possible weather concerns and allow family members a chance to celebrate their graduating senior.

In order to keep social gatherings to a minimal number, CHS will hold nineteen different ceremonies on four different days.

The first of the seven ceremonies is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, and will celebrate the CHS Class of 2020's Top Ten. This will begin at 10 a.m.

Following the Top Ten Ceremony, the first six groups of twenty will commence at the top of each hour, starting at 11 a.m. going until 5 p.m.

The remaining twelve ceremonies will be divided over three days, from Monday, May 18, through Wednesday, May 20, with four ceremonies occurring per day.

The first of the four ceremonies will start at 4:30 p.m. and the following ceremonies will begin at each half hour.

In a letter to parents and students, CHS Principal Brett Robinson said all CDC guidelines will be followed.

"Individuals are encouraged to wear masks and/or gloves if they feel it necessary to protect themselves," he said. "Our custodial company, PCS, will be

on site to disinfect the auditorium and waiting area between every ceremony over the four days."

Each ceremony will be videoed by a professional production company, who will combine all four days into one video



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to be aired on CPSD's YouTube channel on the originally scheduled date and time of graduation, May 22 at 7:30 p.m.

The professionally produced video will feature the traditional elements of a graduation ceremony, such as the recognition of top ten and speeches by the Valedictorian, Student Body President

and Senior Class President. Also included will be the recommendation of the graduating class by Dr. Tim Martin to the Board of Trustees and footage of each student accepting his or her diploma.

All nineteen ceremonies will be live streamed on the district's website as well as the district's YouTube channel.

Each senior will also have his or her picture taken by Mark Barryhill with Mississippi School Pictures and will get a copy of this picture at no charge.

"We are saddened that the class of 2020 has lost so much of the normal recognition given to graduating seniors," said Clinton Public School District Superintendent Dr. Tim Martin. "We have worked very hard to try and recognize them in conducting the graduation ceremony in this manner."

He added that methods for recognizing Senior Awards were being explored, as well as methods of public recognition.

"We want to honor this class with as much respect as we would any other for their hard work and achievements as they graduate," Dr. Martin said. "We appreciate the support we have received from parents and students in this process."

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