

Hyde-Smith, Rubio renew push to make Daylight Saving Time permanent

Senators Reintroduce Legislation to End Twice-a-Year Need for Americans to Change their Clocks

News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) recently joined U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) to reintroduce legislation to make Daylight Saving Time (DST) permanent across the United States. DST began last Sunday, March 14, and lasts until Sunday, November 7. The Sunshine Protection Act of 2021 would simply negate the need for Americans to change their clocks twice a year. Many studies have shown that making DST permanent could benefit the economy and the country.

“The public safety improvements, economic benefits, and the wellbeing of the American people are all excellent and credible reasons to embrace year-long Daylight Saving Time,” Hyde-Smith said. “I know the agricultural sector in Mississippi and across the nation desires this change. I believe the Sunshine Protection Act

would give us an immediate and long-term boost after a terrible pandemic year and a very dark winter.”

“The call to end the antiquated practice of clock changing is gaining momentum throughout the nation,” Rubio said. “Studies have shown many benefits of a year-round Daylight Saving Time, which is why the Florida legislature voted to make it permanent in 2018. I’m proud to reintroduce this bipartisan bill to make Daylight Saving Time permanent, and give our nation’s families more stability throughout the year.”

The legislation, if enacted, would apply to those states who currently participate in DST, which most states observe for eight months out of the year. The remaining four months, November to March, fall under Standard Time.

Florida legislature in 2018 enacted year-round DST; however, for the act to apply, a change in the federal stat-

ute is required. Fifteen other states (Arkansas, Alabama, California, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) have passed similar laws, resolutions or voter initiatives, and other states are considering similar action.

Additional cosponsors of Rubio’s legislation include Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

BACKGROUND

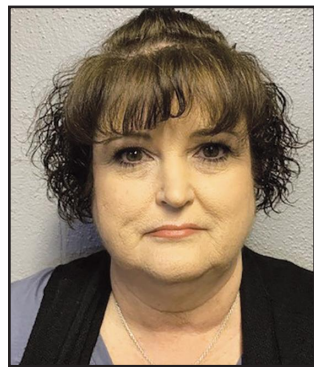
Potential effects of making Daylight Saving Time permanent for the nation:

- * Benefits health by reducing risks for cardiac issues, stroke, and seasonal depression.
- * Reduces childhood obesity and increases physical fitness. According to studies published by the International Journal Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity and the Journal of Physical Activity and Health, children see an increase in physical activity during DST. The Journal of Environmental Psychology found that DST increased pedestrian activity by 62 percent and cyclists activity by 38 percent because of additional daylight.
- * Reduces the number of robberies by 27 percent, according to a 2015 Brookings Institution because of additional daylight in the evenings.
- * Reduces energy usage. A 2008 study by the U.S. Department of Energy found that during the four weeks the United States extended daylight savings from the 2005 law, there were savings of about 0.5 percent in electricity per day. Later studies have also shown that the energy savings are minimal but a small savings does occur.

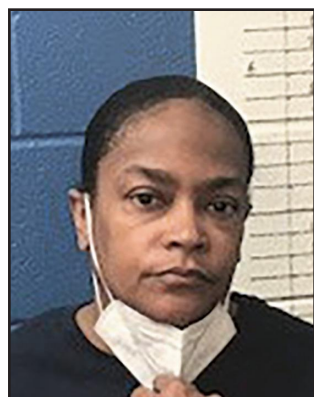
Attorney John Weddle while Benjamin Creekmore’s office will prosecute LaTana Williams.

No surety bond covers Tutor’s employment as a clerk for the Itawamba County Soil and Water Conservation District. A \$50,000 surety bond covers Williams’s time as Police Chief of Calhoun City. Surety bonds are similar to insurance designed to protect taxpayers from corruption. Both women will remain liable for the full amount of the demand in addition to criminal proceedings.

Suspected fraud can be reported to the Auditor’s office online any time by clicking the red button at www.osa.ms.gov or via telephone during normal business hours at 1-(800)-321-1275.



POLLY TUTOR



LATANA WILLIAMS

Auditor’s Office Makes Two Arrests in North Mississippi

Separate cases result in demand letters and embezzlement, forgery charges

Press Release

JACKSON, Miss. – Today State Auditor Shad White announced Special Agents from his office have arrested Polly Tutor of Nettleton and LaTana Williams of Calhoun City. The arrests come from separate investigations. Tutor, a former clerk for the Itawamba County Soil and Water Conservation District, was indicted for embezzlement and forgery. Williams is the current police chief in Calhoun City and has been indicted for embezzlement. Each woman was presented a demand letter upon arrest.

“Our team of investigators in North Mississippi continue to do great work, just like the rest of the staff here at the Auditor’s office,” said Auditor White. “We will hold the line on theft of taxpayer dollars no matter where we find it.”

Polly Tutor is accused of making unauthorized purchases with a district debit card. Tutor also allegedly wrote unauthorized checks from the District’s beaver control program checking account to herself and others. Signatures on these checks are believed to be forged. From June 2014 to August 2020, Tutor purportedly embezzled over \$25,000 from the District. When interest and investigative expenses are included, Tutor owes \$37,215.02 to taxpayers in Itawamba County.

Commissioners from the District contacted the Au-

ditor’s office when a tax lien was filed against the District for nonpayment of payroll taxes. Investigators confirmed multiple District-controlled bank accounts had been depleted as a result of Tutor’s scheme.

LaTana Williams allegedly submitted time sheets claiming to be on the clock as police chief while she was actually working a second job at a Pontotoc County retail business. A comparison of timesheets from the Calhoun City Police Department to those from Williams’s second job showed she was paid over \$6,700 for hours she did not work as police chief. Williams’s demand letter shows she owes \$10,793.99 to Calhoun City residents.

The Auditor’s office was contacted by local officials when Williams was absent during an emergency call in early 2019. Williams’s scheme allegedly began in late Fall 2018.

Tutor’s bond was set at \$10,000 in Itawamba County, and the court set a \$25,000 bond for Williams in Calhoun County.

If convicted, Tutor faces up to 25 years in prison and \$60,000 in fines. Williams faces up to 20 years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. All persons arrested by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Tutor will be prosecuted by the office of District

daylight hours to drivers’ standard work hours’ increases visibility, according to the American Journal of Public Health and the Journal of Safety Research. Also reduces the number of vehicle collisions with wildlife by 8-11 percent by shifting normal traffic patterns to an hour off from nocturnal wildlife’s behavior.

* Benefits health by reducing risks for cardiac issues, stroke, and seasonal depression.

* Reduces childhood obesity and increases physical fitness. According to studies published by the International Journal Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity and the Journal of Physical Activity and Health, children see an increase in physical activity during DST. The Journal of Environmental Psychology found that DST increased pedestrian activity by 62 percent and cyclists activity by 38 percent because of additional daylight.

* Reduces the number of robberies by 27 percent, according to a 2015 Brookings Institution because of additional daylight in the evenings.

* Reduces energy usage. A 2008 study by the U.S. Department of Energy found that during the four weeks the United States extended daylight savings from the 2005 law, there were savings of about 0.5 percent in electricity per day. Later studies have also shown that the energy savings are minimal but a small savings does occur.

Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System named a Star Library

News Release

Kosciusko, MS – The Mid-MS Regional Library System (MMRLS) was recently named a “Star Library” by the Mississippi Library Commission for FY2019, marking the first time in the system’s history it has received the award. The Mississippi Star Library award is given to libraries with outstanding statistical performance in a several categories, including the number of registered users, items circulated, program attendance, public computer and internet usage, database use, books lent throughout the state, and items withdrawn. “It is truly an honor for our library system to be recognized as a Star Library,” said Josh Haidet, Executive Director. “We could not possibly have attained this status without our dedicated library staff, the guidance of our trustees, the backing of our elected officials, and the support of

the local communities we serve.”

Haidet also credited the evolution of the library system over the years as a factor in winning the award. “Our focus has always been on serving our guests and meeting the needs of the residents in Attala, Holmes, Leake, Montgomery, and Winston County,” said Haidet. “We are constantly changing and adapting to meet the needs of our communities. For example, we have recently been focused on adding improved digital content such as our new eBook and eAudiobook offerings, free online tutoring sessions, and the library’s new website. We are excited for the future.” For more information, call or visit your local branch library, or the library’s website at www.midmisslib.com. All library services are made possible thanks to the continued financial support of our local elected officials.

Durant P.D.’s Amnesty Period

The Durant Police Department’s amnesty period is in effect. The last day to take advantage of this will be April 15th, 2021. You are encouraged to come and pay outstanding fines in full before the deadline to avoid additional penalties and warrants.

NOTICE

Mississippi River Gas Company operates a distribution system in Holmes County, MS.

If you should smell gas, or see damaged metering equipment, please call our 24-hour emergency phone number 662-235-0988 or 601-437-4274.

Recognizing a Suspected Leak - Using your sense of sight, sound and smell will help you recognize a suspected leak. Here's what you should look for.

Sight - Natural gas is colorless, but vapor and "ground frosting" may be visible at high pressures. A gas leak may also be indicated by bubbles in wet or flooded areas, distinct patches of dead vegetation, dust blowing from a hole in the ground or flames if the leak is ignited.

Sound - A hissing or roaring noise along the right-of-way of a pipeline could also indicate a natural gas leak.

Smell - Transmission natural gas has a stale petroleum/hydrocarbon smell. Before it is delivered to your home, natural gas has mercaptan added which gives the gas a sulphur or "rotten egg" smell to help detect leaks. If the gas is from an underground leak, the odorant may be filtered out by the ground. If you should smell gas, or see damaged metering equipment, please call our 24-hour emergency phone number 601-786-3922 or 601-437-4274.

Every year people are injured or killed by accidentally striking a pipeline while using excavation equipment. In many cases, these tragedies could have been prevented by making a simple telephone call to the state One-Call Center, which is free of charge.

By State laws, anyone who plans to begin any excavation, trenching, boring or other ground disturbing projects, (such as building a fence, installing a pool, landscaping, installing a sprinkler system), is required to contact the One-Call Center no less than 48 hours before digging whether or not the caller believes the area is free of pipelines or other underground utilities. The One-Call Center will notify all utilities in the area and the utility companies will dispatch people to the proposed excavation site to locate and mark pipelines and other underground services.

Mississippi One-Call Center can be reached at - 1-800-227-6477 or 811

This message is from: Mississippi River Gas, LLC, P.O. Box 579, Tchula, MS 39169

To report an emergency on our pipeline call - 662-235-0988 or 601-437-4274