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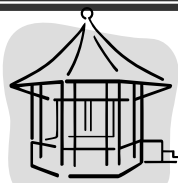
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Cochran: Mississippi Awarded \$6.24 Million In Heating Assistance For Low-Income Homes

LIHEAP Funds Will Help Poor Afford Winter Heating Costs

U.S. Senator Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) this week announced that the state of Mississippi has been awarded \$6.24 million in contingency funding to help eligible low-income households afford winter heating costs.

The funding is being released through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The \$6.24 million award to Mississippi is part of the \$490 million in LIHEAP contingency funding

being distributed to all 50 states.

"Many low-income seniors and families may have a hard time paying their energy bills, and this winter has been an additional challenge for them. LIHEAP is designed to help eligible families manage those home heating costs," said Cochran, the vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Subcommittee that sets annual funding levels for LIHEAP.

Last year, almost 39,000

Mississippi households received heating assistance, with benefits per recipient averaging \$450, according to the HHS Administration for Children and Families. More than 28,000 additional households received aid during the summer months for home cooling.

The Mississippi Department of Human Services' Community Services Division administers LIHEAP for the state. Information about LIHEAP eligibility is available here or by contacting the state LIHEAP Office in Jackson at 1-800-421-0762.

Humane Society of South Mississippi Pets Of The Week

*Help Noel Find A Belated
Christmas Miracle*



Noel, a one-year-old female terrier/Spaniel mix was adopted the day after Christmas but returned by her new owner because she was too playful. Please give Noel a **THIRD** chance! She is waiting for the perfect home and a belated Christmas miracle!



Bunny Love

Cuddly, a one-year-old male rabbit, is one of seven rabbits at HSSM right now!

Cuddly is very sweet and so is Aubrey, Buddy (photo below), and their other long-eared counterparts!

Come adopt a bunny today! They can be litter trained and make great house pets!

If you are interested in adopting these or any of the wonderful animals from the Humane Society of South Mississippi, come see us at 2615 25th Avenue, off Hwy 49 in Gulfport. Phone: (228) 863-3354.



Calling 1980 PCHS Grads!

Reunion Committee Seeks Contact Information

Hello, Pass Christian High School Class of 1980!

It's hard to believe that it has been 30 years since we graduated. We can't let any more years pass before we reunite.

Several members of our class have gathered together to organize our 2010 Reunion. We are looking forward to seeing ALL of our classmates.

This can only be a success if we work together. Please

take the time to call, write, email, twitter, text, etc., whomever you can to locate your classmates.

Please, please, please make an effort to be a part of this special milestone in our lives. We are not getting any younger! Don't miss the chance to reunite with your classmates because you've gained weight or are balding or graying — we all are! Reunions are to celebrate where we are now in our lives and to reminisce about the past. No one there

will look the same! Please come and join us!

Committee Members:

A. Milton "Blaine" Ashley (blaineashley@msn.com, 228-918-1827)

B. Regina Charlot (reginachdailey1@yahoo.com, 228-547-2917)

C. Penny Harshbarger Henderson (penney8@aol.com, 228-669-5615)

D. Angela Payne (alpsmith1@yahoo.com, 228-234-3423)

E. Stephanie Zanders (228-493-6213)

Boaters: A Reason To Check Your Signal Flares

Out of sight, out of mind? Unfortunately for a lot of recreational boaters, that's the reality when it comes to handheld signal flares. Stored aboard in some dark corner of the boat, most boaters don't think twice about their condition until they really need them. However, a feature in the latest issue of Boat Owners Association of The United States' *Seaworthy Magazine* reveals that failing to periodically inspect flares could have serious consequences.

This past summer, a BoatU.S. employee opened a sealed orange storage canister that was located in his own 34-foot sailboat's cabin and found that three handheld flares inside were ruined. Long cracks along their length had developed, and the flare's combustive ingredients were exposed and spilling out, rendering

them useless. There were no signs of moisture inside or outside the canister. In an unexplained twist, three flares with older manufacturing dates, stored in the same sealed orange canister, were found undamaged.

BoatU.S. first learned of this issue three years ago when a BoatU.S. member in Washington State reported a similar problem. In that case, an O-ring and duct tape sealed the flare container tightly, yet three unexpired flares inside were destroyed.

"Most boaters know that emergency signal flares have expiration dates," said BoatU.S. *Seaworthy* editor Bob Adriance. "However, these two puzzling stories tell us that it's also best to check your flares a few times a season. I would also add flare guns to the list, too," he added.

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety also offers a full report with real-world tests of aerial, smoke, and handheld flares at www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/Findings/Findings45. To view video, go to www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/Findings/findings45/videos.asp.

To get your own quarterly copy of the boat damage and injury avoidance publication *Seaworthy*, an annual subscription for \$10 is available by going to www.BoatUS.com/seaworthy.

The Boat Owners Association of The United States is the nation's leading advocate for recreational boaters providing over half a million members with government representation, programs and money saving services. Learn more online at www.BoatUS.com.



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PASS CHRISTIAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Saturday, Jan. 30
Arbor Day Tree Giveaway
10am, War Memorial Park
See page 3 for info.

SATURDAY MARKETS
Pass Market
War Memorial Park
8am-12pm weekly
Farmers Market
115 Davis Avenue
8am-12pm weekly

\$10,000 Drawdown,
benefiting St Paul Carnival
Association, 6pm,
St Vincent de Paul Gym.
*Tickets: 864-3175,
452-7085, or 216-0642*

Monday, Feb. 1
Bingo at the VFW, 7pm,
VFW Post #5931 (North
Street, one block west of
Henderson). Weekly.

Tuesday, Feb. 2
**Pass Christian Board of
Aldermen Regular Meet-
ing,** 6pm, Hancock Bank
Community Room

*See agenda online: [www.
ci.pass-christian.ms.us](http://www.ci.pass-christian.ms.us)*

Saturday, Feb. 6
Paws Parade, 10 am,
Registration begins at 9am
in War Memorial Park.
Info: 228-363-1973

**Timber Ridge Mardi Gras
Parade,** 2 pm
*Route goes through Timber
Ridge, begins and ends at
PCI Golf Clubhouse*

Wednesday, Feb. 10
2010 State of the City,
8am, Boys & Girls Club of
Pass Christian, Qatar Center

Friday, Feb. 12
**80th Anniversary Trinity
Church St. Monica Guild
Valentine's Silver Tea,**
625 East Scenic

Saturday, Feb. 13
St. Paul Carnival Ball,
Espy Center. *Royal Tableau
begins at 8pm. Tickets on
sale Monday, Feb. 8*

Sunday, Feb. 14
PASS PARADE
*12 pm. Registration info:
[http://www.svdpcatholicsschool.org/wtdoc/
The_Big_80's.pdf](http://www.svdpcatholicsschool.org/wtdoc/The_Big_80's.pdf)*

Monday, Feb. 15
President's Day

Tuesday, Feb. 16
Fat Tuesday



Saturday, Feb. 27
**Drawdown Benefit For
Police Officer,** 6 pm, Pass
Christian VFW. *For tickets,
\$50, contact police depart-
ment at 452-3301*

*Calendar Listings:
editor@gazebogazette.com
or 228-363-1973*

Drawdown Benefit For Police Officer Is Feb. 27

A \$5,000 Benefit Drawdown will be held on Feb. 27 for Pass Christian Police Officer Clifton Bubba Malley, who lost his house due to a fire just before Christmas. The drawdown will be at 6 p.m. at the Pass Christian VFW. Tickets are \$50.

Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket can contact the police department at 452-3301.

Bingo's Back!

**Bingo has returned to Pass Christian's VFW Post #5931, on North Street
one block west of Henderson. Every Monday at 7 p.m.**

Events Around The Coast

Smithsonian Institute Brings Journey Stories to Mississippi Gulf Coast

The University of Southern Mississippi's Katrina Research Center, located at the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, will serve as the sixth and final location for the Smithsonian Institute's "Journey Stories" exhibit in Mississippi.

Journey Stories is an interactive exhibit addressing migration and immigration as they relate to the American experience. Using engaging images, audio and artifacts, it tells stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society.

"The Katrina Research Center will also offer, in conjunction with the Smithsonian exhibit, local journey stories such as the development of the seafood industry, the Vietnamese journey to Mississippi, Mardi Gras, Long Beach truck farming and women in the arts after Hurricane Katrina," said Dr. Deanne Nuwer, director of the Katrina Research Center.

The Journey Stories schedule of events is as follows:

- Feb. 8, 6:40 p.m. – Lecture on the history of Mardi Gras by Professor Kern Jackson of the University of South Alabama. The lecture will be presented at the Advanced Education Center auditorium on the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus. A film screening of Orders of

the Myth will follow.

- Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m. – Roundtable discussion about the Gulf Coast Carnival Association and its role in preserving Mardi Gras along the MS Gulf Coast. Discussion will feature Gulfport Mayor George Schloegel as guest speaker.
- Feb. 25 – Exhibit opening on the Vietnamese community of the Gulf Coast by Tim Isbell, Betty Press and Linda Van Zandt.
- March 2, 6:30 p.m. – Lecture on truck farming in Long Beach by Ashley Skellie.
- March 8, 6:30 p.m. – Panel discussion on Hurricane Katrina and women in the fine arts led by Melody Golding of Vicksburg.

The Journey Stories exhibit, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute and Mississippi Humanities Council, will be on display at the Katrina Research Center until March 11. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Southern Miss Katrina Research Center at 228-214-3423; online, visit www.usm.edu/katrina.

United Way Requests 2010 Grant Proposals

United Way of South Mississippi is pleased to announce the release of the 2010 Request for Proposals in the areas of Education, Income and Health. The 2010 Community Impact Grants will be distributed in a two-year funding cycle.

The grant process consists of two steps: submitting a Letter of Intent; and then, by invitation, the full Grant Proposal. All Letters of Intent are due to the United Way of South Mississippi office by noon on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

Eligible applicants must: be an IRS recognized nonprofit organization that has worked in Harrison, Hancock or Pearl River counties for at least three years; be able to communicate through email; and must meet United Way standards for fiscal reporting and for outcome measurement evaluation of their programs. All forms and instructions are available on the United Way of South Mississippi website (www.uw-sm.org).

SBA Loan Clinic Scheduled in Gulfport

The U. S. Small Business Administration's Gulfport Branch Office will conduct a Loan Clinic on Thursday, Feb. 4, to discuss SBA's guaranty loan programs. The presenter will detail the variety of SBA programs use to guaranty loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$2 million for small businesses.

The clinic starts at 5:30 p.m. and will be held in the SBA office located on the first floor of the Hancock Bank Plaza (2510 14th Street) in Gulfport. Attendance is not required to apply for an SBA loan. There is no charge to attend, but space is limited. Call 228-863-4449, ext. 222, to register.



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HORT HINTS BY SYLVIA MCLAURIN

Seeding Reading

way and sports strawberry yogurt-colored berries for about two weeks; then the berries turn streaked and brown and cling for another month. I should simply dig it up while it is leafless and move it to a less conspicuous spot.

It's a bit depressing, isn't it, to look at the garden now. Dead leaves rattle in the wind, a couple of winter weeds sprawl here and there, and a lone stalk of broccoli seems to say, "Expect no more of me; I'm tired." Though we know the cold weather is not over yet, something is nudging us to get ready for spring.

But like a contrary child, I really don't want to do what I should do. I want to look at pretty pictures, pick out different flowers and new cultivars of vegetables, and receive promising envelopes in the mail. I want seed catalogues.

in our own particular garden, and most of all to have a garden we make according to our own purposes.

It is herb seeds that are to me the most gratifying, as most nursery centers stock only the most common herbs, and these usually from one source (and therefore usually one cultivar). A seed catalogue will provide dozens of types of the same herbs, plus new herbs I've never tried.



A good catalogue (or web site) will give complete information about the plants and their requirements. Moreover, the seed packet will explain when to plant, where to plant, how deep to plant and how far apart. Now is the time to order seed for the best selection to arrive in plenty of time to sprout them for transplanting as the weather warms.

Here are only a few of the many seed company websites on which to find seeds to order and catalogues to request:

www.johnnyseeds.com;
www.seedsofchange.com;
www.richters.com;
www.totallytomato.com;
www.burpee.com.

So when those catalogues arrive (or while perusing them online), I'm going to grab a cup of hot coffee or tea, sit in a comfortable

Most of us are far too used to going to garden centers and picking up plants in a flush of growth and complete with blooms. And in many gardening situations, transplants are indeed the simplest and easiest way to go. But with a few years of gardening under my belt, and perhaps more confidence than I should have, I do like to pick out my own varieties from time to time rather than accept whatever the store happens to carry.

Moreover, seeding can be far cheaper when quantities of plants are needed, and while it takes more care and a better environment to coax a seed to grow than a transplant, seeding provides an opportunity to experiment, to grow multiple kinds of tomatoes or beans or petunias or salvias, to watch which ones grow best

After all, there are the winter chores, such as sharpening the hoes, clippers, and pruning shears. I discovered an ancient rusty edger in the shed, its semicircular blade so dull I couldn't even push it through the soil. A few licks with the file and I was in business. Likewise with trowels, shovels, and mower blades. Clippers gummed up with sap get soap and water, a thorough drying, and a bit of oiling.

Should I tire of hardware, there is liming the vegetable beds, re-mulching the shrubs, filling in the low spots in the lawn, and washing all those dirty pairs of garden gloves.

What else? The small saplings need moving to larger pots, while older larger trees and shrubs should be planted in the yard while they are dormant. In my yard there is a pink beautyberry that, frankly, I don't like. It grows near the entry-

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(Continued on page 25)

FINANCIAL FOCUS: Smart Investment Moves for 2010

As an investor, you might wonder what the new year has in store for you. While economic and market forces are, as always, somewhat unpredictable, the overall outlook is generally favorable — and by making the right moves, you can further improve your chances of making 2010 a good year for your portfolio.

And one of the best moves you can make is to stay invested. If you had jumped out of the market during the long downturn from late 2007 through March 2009, you would have missed quite a rally. In fact, the Dow Jones Industrial Average staged a considerable comeback from its March lows, climbing 18.8 percent in 2009. The S & P 500 rose 23.5 percent off of its low.

Still, it's unlikely that we'll experience returns in this neighborhood for 2010. Although we may see reasonably strong growth in corporate earnings — a key driver of stock prices — stocks are no longer as undervalued as they were when the rally began.

However, although we still

Hort Hint, *continued*

(Continued from page 24)

chair (the cat will no doubt be on my lap) and dream over the lush illustrations of those plants I'd really like to grow. And I'm going to make two lists: those seeds that I want and those seeds I can manage. After all, 30-plus packs of 50 seeds each is how many plants?

face some significant issues, such as high unemployment and tight credit, most experts predict that the economic recovery will continue in 2010, though not at a sizzling pace. And a growing economy is usually good news for investors.

Of course, despite the potentially favorable investment environment, there's always the possibility of bumps in the road. To protect yourself, consider taking these steps:

— **Stick with “buy and hold.”** Despite some claims that “buy-and-hold” is no longer a viable investment strategy given today's volatile markets, it worked pretty well for those investors who were patient enough to ride out the bear market. Continue looking for quality investments and holding them until they no longer meet your needs or until the fundamentals of the investments themselves change.

— **Own some short-term investments.** During the long bear market, short-term investments, particularly cash, held up better than most other assets. Yet many investors had too little cash in their portfolios. Don't make that mistake. Keep an appropriate amount of cash for your age, income level, risk tolerance and long-term goals.

— **Consider adding fixed-income investments.** By owning some fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds, you

can help reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio. And if you hold your bonds until maturity, which is often a wise move, you can rely on them for a source of steady income. As always, make sure you understand the risks before investing.

— **Watch for changes in investment taxes.** In the coming year, the tax rate may increase for long-term capital gains and stock dividends. If that happens, you may need to review your investment mix. However, even if the long-term capital gains rate rises, you'll still likely be better off holding quality investments for many years, thereby giving them the time to potentially overcome short-term price volatility. And even if taxes rise on dividends, dividend-paying stocks, with their ability to provide both income and growth potential, can be a valuable part of your portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that companies may reduce or eliminate dividends at any time.)

No one can say for sure what 2010 will bring to the investment world. But by preparing your investment strategy for a range of possibilities, and by making changes as needed, you can make this a year of progress toward your important financial goals.

*Submitted by
Craig W. Foster,
Financial Advisor,
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228-467-9400*

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