

W is for Veterinary

Neshoba Co. Animal Hospital

Dr. Thomas W. Tischer

641 E. Main Street • Philadelphia, MS 39350

(601) 656-6692

Hours: M-F 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM • Sat 7:30 AM - Noon

"All creatures great and small, the Lord God made them all"

Councilman’s attempts to remove CAO fail

By Erin Kelly
ekelly@themeridianstar.com

Two attempts by a Meridian city council member to remove the city’s chief administrative officer failed at Tuesday night’s city council meeting.

Ward 5 Councilman Weston Lindemann proposed repealing a city ordinance that

established the CAO position, saying he has questioned the need for the role.

“We’ve had so many issues with that particular person and if in the future, there’s just going to be someone else to fill that spot, I wouldn’t want to run into a similar situation where we’ve got someone who serves at the will and pleasure of the mayor, but ultimately,

is just doing all of the responsibilities of the mayor’s office,” Lindemann said, referring to CAO Richie McAlister. “I think we have an obligation to take action.”

The vote failed 3-2, with council members Kim Houston of Ward 4, Fannie Johnson of Ward 3 and George Thomas of Ward 1 voting against it, and Tyrone

Johnson of Ward 2 and Lindemann voting in favor of it.

Thomas said the CAO position was necessary and that it involves different responsibilities than the mayor.

Lindemann’s second proposal was to decrease funding for the executive salary by \$90,000.

That vote failed 4-1, with

Lindemann casting the only vote in favor.

Two weeks ago, Lindemann attempted to remove McAlister’s salary, based on concerns about an audio recording that was posted and shared online.

Lindemann said that he was referring to a recording that appeared to be of McAl-

See CAO, page A3



Lindemann

ON THE RADIO



Bill Graham/ The Meridian Star

Micheal Starr uses radio equipment at WNBN (1290 AM) in Meridian. The station has expressed a need for better equipment to better serve the African American community.

Voice of Meridian’s black community seeks to upgrade

By Thomas King
tking@themeridianstar.com

Micheal Starr begins his work day at 10 a.m., broadcasting valuable information to Meridian’s African American community.

But with reduced wattage and broken equipment, he and other radio hosts stand to lose that opportunity.

“It’s our voice to communicate to the African American people,” said Starr, the programming director on WNBN (1290 AM).

“We’re the only African American, black-owned station in Lau-

derdale County,” said Starr, who has been with WNBN for about 10 years.

The station, which went on the air around 1987, has started fundraising to fix some broken equipment and increase its wattage.

“We’re a small radio station and we’re trying to get back to 5,000 watts,” said Starr. “Right now, we only have around 200 watts.”

When a radio station isn’t able to produce enough power, the signal can’t reach very far, and the sound quality drops off.

“The average person, when they hear static, they’re going to cut the

radio off,” said Starr.

The station runs 24/7, offering Sunday gospel, old school music, R&B, as well as talk shows, such as “Real Life Talk with Randle Jennings.”

“We want to save the station,” said Jennings. “It’s a jewel that’s been hidden.”

Because the station is on the AM setting, many people may miss it, said Jennings, but he touts it as the “voice of Meridian” from the African American perspective.

“This station has a unique flavor,”

See UPGRADE, page A2

CLARKE COUNTY

Storm causes damage, injuries

By Bianca Moorman
bmoorman@themeridianstar.com

At least two people were sent to the hospital with injuries related to the severe storm that passed through East Mississippi Monday evening.

Clarke County Sheriff’s Department Chief Deputy Barry White said two people from the southwestern part of Clarke were taken to a hospital in Meridian during the storm.

There was severe damage throughout the county, including downed trees and damaged homes, White said.

The path of a suspected tornado came from the southeast portion of the county before passing through Beaver Dam, Highway 45, east of Quitman and Highway 18 and eventually to the Alabama state line, White said.

The number of homes damaged was unknown Tuesday morning, White said. The sheriff’s department assisted people out of their homes Monday night, he said.

See STORM, page A2

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Lawsuit nears resolution

By Bianca Moorman
bmoorman@themeridianstar.com

The Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Youth Services is coming close to resolving its part of the ongoing school-to-prison lawsuit.

In 2012, the Dept. of Justice filed a lawsuit against the city of Meridian, the state of Mississippi, Lauderdale Youth Court and judges for violations related to a “school prison to pipeline” from the Meridian Public School District to the Lauderdale Juvenile Detention Center.

Of the the 21 provisions

See LAWSUIT, page A2



Maccarone

WEATHER FORECAST

Complete details A8

Today High: 51°

Tonight Low: 28°

www.meridianstar.com

6 55806 11701 0

INDEX	
Classified	B5-B6
Comics	B4
Deaths	A4
Horoscope	A11
Local News	A1-A3
National News	A5-A10
Opinion	A7
Records	A11
Sports	B1-B4
World News	A12

Vol. 121 • No. 252

Copyright 2019

3 things to do today

- Trees of Christmas at Merrehope, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 905 MLK Drive, Meridian. 601-483-8439.
- Santa’s Christmas Factory at Soule’ Steam Works, 1808 4th St., Meridian. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$5 per person.
- Free Holiday Concert at the MSU Riley Center featuring the LCSD bands with special guests: The MCC Guitar and Jazz Ensemble, 6 p.m.

Follow us on

facebook.com/meridianstar

NOVATECH

Novatech.net

COPIERS & PRINTERS

MANAGED PRINT SERVICES

OFFICE SUPPLIES & TECHNOLOGY

DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS