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## PARENT UNIVERSITY



photos by Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

Trysten Brown, 8, left, and Kenya Burns, 9, dance to a song from the Lion King during the Meridian Public School District's Parent University Tuesday.

The Meridian Public School District hosted its annual Parent University on Tuesday at Bonita Lakes Mall. The event featured student performances, cooking classes, fitness activities and sessions on financial literacy, wellness and community resources. District staff were also on hand to answer questions about their schools. **See a video from the event at [www.meridianstar.com](http://www.meridianstar.com).**



Aurora Gonzales, 8, uses her finger to paint on a Promethean Interaction Smart Board.



Ava Sharpe, 3, uses a bell pepper to create an art print.

## State's top park manager credits others for success

**By Thomas King**  
tking@themeridianstar.com

QUITMAN — Tony Fleming shies away from questions about himself, and is much more interested in showcasing the deeds of others.

But the manager at Clarkco State Park won't be able to curtail praise for much longer, as he was recently named the 2019 park manager of the year by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

There are 21 state parks in Mississippi, and of them, the park managers and office staff vote on who should receive the award, meaning that this is an award from Fleming's peers.

"It's an honor and I appreciate it," said Fleming, who has been

manager at Clarkco for four years.

Fleming credited two key groups for the award.

"If it hadn't been for these two groups that I've got, the AmeriCorps and the Friends of ClarkCo... that's what made the difference for me," Fleming said.

The current AmeriCorps group stationed at the park is made up of six people in their late teens to early 20s. The team made it clear that Clarkco and Fleming are a great package deal.

"It's been really refreshing to come here," AmeriCorps member Mallory Fahey said. "It's been fun working with Tony. It's a really nice place."

According to another member, Nikki Glendye, Fleming also received an award from Ameri-

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Thomas King / The Meridian Star

Tony Fleming, the manager at Clarkco State Park, was recently named the 2019 park manager of the year by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

## City passes panhandling ordinances

**By Erin Kelly**

ekelly@themeridianstar.com

The Meridian City Council voted Tuesday night to approve two ordinances to address panhandling, a subject of concern for some local business owners who visited city hall in recent weeks.

"This has been a systemic issue we've been facing citywide, whether it be on Frontage Road or businesses in general," said Chief Administrative Officer Richie McAlister.

The first ordinance bans aggressive panhandling, which includes following or blocking a person, using abusive language, making unwanted physical contact or using fear or intimidation, according to Meridian Police Department Capt. John Griffith.

Someone panhandling under the influence of alcohol or drugs also meets the definition of aggressive panhandling, he said.

The ordinance makes it unlawful to panhandle on private property or at a business without permission.

A business or private entity may place a sign that states, "No panhandling of any type permitted. Such conduct is prohibited by city ordinance Sec. 16-52.5(b)," Griffith said.

If an officer sees someone not complying with the sign, they can charge the person, according to the ordinance.

A second ordinance makes it unlawful for a pedestrian to pass any item to someone in a car

**See CITY, page A2**

## Posey named parks director

**By Erin Kelly**

ekelly@themeridianstar.com

The Meridian City Council voted Tuesday night to approve the confirmation of Trent Posey as the city's parks and recreation director.

Posey, who is from Meridian, is a business process improvement specialist at Rush Health Systems and youth sports volunteer.

He was one of eight candidates interviewed for the position, according to Mayor Percy Bland.

"I'm passionate about the development of our youth," Posey told the council before the 4-1 vote. "I want to see better facilities, better opportunities."

Posey said he hoped to bring new energy to the position and explore additional activities for seniors.

"I'm very honored to be able to serve the community in this capacity. I want to use my strengths and diversity as far as knowledge of management, strategic planning and all and apply it to the parks and rec department," Posey

**See PARKS, page A2**



Trent Posey

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Today** High: 70°  
**Tonight** Low: 45°

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Vol. 121 • No. 232

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## 3 things to do today

• Young Adults (7th-12th Grade) STEM (Newton's Cradle Storm) at the Meridian-Lauderdale County Public Library, 4:30 p.m.

• An Acoustic Evening With John Hiatt at the MSU Riley Center, 7:30 p.m. VIP \$60, A \$45, B \$35. 601-696-2200.

• New Meridian Holiness Deliverance Church Celebration of Life Revival, 7 p.m. 612 12th Ave., Meridian.

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