

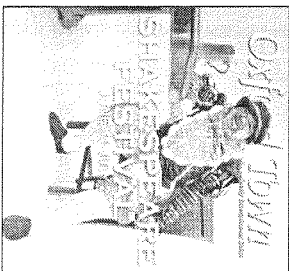
THE OXFORD MAGAZINE

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010

Serving Oxford, Lafayette County and the University of Mississippi

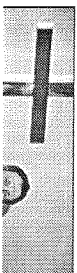
142ND Year, No. 180 — 50 CENTS

INSIDE



SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Bard Days of Summer return to town this weekend with the start of the annual Oxford Shakespeare Festival. Check out this week's **Oxford Town** for the details on this year's theatrical offerings as well as the other arts and entertainment events take place in the community this week.



How to succeed in life

UM to get center to promote financial responsibility

By **ALYSSA SCHNUGG**
Staff Writer

Neil Burton was surprised to see his sixth-grade students so interested in learning how to trade stocks. "We gave them \$100,000 — in fake money of course — to invest in the stock market," Burton said. "Some of them did better than me. They really grasped it."

in the Mississippi Council on Economic Education's Master Teacher of Economics program in which teachers learn ways to bring lessons about financial responsibility, the economy and entrepreneur endeavors into the classrooms.

"We cover personal finance, talk about investing and saving and the stock market," Burton said. "The program was eye-opening and a lot of hard work but when you finish, you're well prepared to take it to the classroom."

While his students are just in the sixth grade, Burton said it's not too



Burton

early to begin teaching them about financial responsibility.

"If we send our kids out in the world knowing calculus, but they can't balance a check book, we've done them a disservice," Burton said. "But they are taught this isn't about getting rich quick. It's about having a 'work long and hard and invest wisely' life style."

The Council on Education is based out of Jackson but plans to open a center on the campus of the University of Mississippi by the end of July, MCEE President Pam Smith said.

"A number of teachers in Oxford have already participated in our program," Smith said. "A center at Ole Miss will allow us to reach more people."

MCEE is about closing the gap between what young people need to know about economics and what they are being taught in the classroom, she said.

Giving children the tools they need to become financially stable as adults is the first step in helping Mississippi residents become more self-sufficient.

"Mississippi families who work hard should be able to pay bills, buy a house and save money," Smith said Wednesday. "However, too many Mississippians of every race and gender are barely living paycheck to paycheck."

See **SUCCEED** on Page 2

ART CLASS



OUT OKS

more

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Department

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Lindy Delbridge

Lindy Delbridge, 55, died Wednesday at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi in Oxford. Arrangements are incomplete with Hodges-Freeman Funeral Home.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Oxford EAGLE publishes obituaries as a free service for families in our community.

We accept obituaries for those arranging services with funeral homes in Lafayette County and Water Valley; or from other funeral homes if the deceased or survivors live or previously lived here.

The Oxford EAGLE only accepts obituaries from funeral homes. Pictures are welcome.

Submit obituaries by fax at (662) 234-4351 or e-mail to news@oxfordeagle.com.

Succeed: Study gives figures

Continued from Page 1

Smith cited the Self Sufficiency Standard for Mississippi 2009 study released in September 2009 by the Mississippi Economic Policy Center.

"Research shows one third of Lafayette County residents are struggling to cover basic needs," Smith said. "The best time to start learning is early on."

MCEE is using the study to examine which occupations lead to self sufficiency, she said.

The study showed a single person would need to earn \$8.34 an hour just to be self-sufficient in Lafayette County.

"But earning enough to be self-sufficient isn't enough," Smith said. "It's not sufficient to gain long-term economic security."

The study shows how much a single person or family would need to earn to be able to at least cover basic needs like rent, utilities and food.

In Lafayette County, the report shows a family with two parents and two school-age children would need to make \$8.53 an hour per adult to be self-sufficient, or a combined yearly salary of \$36,027. Costs for housing were averaged at \$700 — up 43 percent

SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES

How much money do people need to earn to be self-sufficient? Here are the Mississippi Economic Policy Center's estimates of what hourly wages let people meet basic needs:

County	Adult	Adult w/one preschooler	2 Adults w/preschooler and teenager
Lafayette County	\$8.34	\$12.42	\$8.53 per adult
Marshall County	\$7.32	\$11.63	\$8.29 per adult
Pontotoc County	\$7.35	\$10.86	\$7.74 per adult
Panola County	\$7.64	\$10.86	\$7.74 per adult
Yalobusha County	\$7.42	\$10.86	\$7.74 per adult

since 2003 when the last Self Sufficiency Standard report was released. Child care costs average \$488 with health care costing about \$376 a month.

The report shows just the necessities and doesn't include cell phone bills, cable bills or entertainment money, although it does include a miscellaneous expense category. The report

only shows the bare-bones of what it would take to be self-sufficient — which means they're not receiving any local, state or federal income assistance.

Along with the full report, a county-by-county data report and online personal calculator are available at www.mepconline.org/self-sufficiency-standard.

—alyssa@oxfordeagle.com

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