



# THE GREENWOOD Commonwealth



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THURSDAY

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GREENWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Scheduling conflicts put Brown hearing on hold

By BRYN STOLE  
Staff Writer

A termination hearing for a former Greenwood Public School District administrator has been on hold for a month because of repeated scheduling conflicts.

The hearing for Assistant Superintendent Mary Brown, who was fired by district Superintendent Montrell Greene in October, last convened Jan. 16.

Since, attorneys for Brown and the school district have been unable to find agreeable dates to resume testimony.

Brown had overseen curriculum in the district for about a year and a half prior to her firing. She is also a former principal at East School in Leflore County and at



Brown



Greene

Williams Elementary in Greenwood.

The hearing on Brown's firing has been open to the public at her request.

In firing Brown, Greene cited insubordination and violations of district

policies, including Brown's decision to air complaints of mistreatment,

harassment and intimidation of her by Greene during a half-hour recorded interview with Greenwood talk show host Lee Hall, which was later broadcast online and on the radio.

Brown has maintained that her termination came after she'd been harassed and bullied by Greene. She has said the firing was an act of retaliation for her criticism of Greene, including testimony during the non-renewal hearing for former Greenwood High School Principal Percy

Powell last spring that the superintendent had instructed her to intimidate witnesses — charges Greene has denied.

Brown's attorney, Lisa Ross of Jackson, has argued that her client's firing violated her First Amendment free speech rights.

School Board Attorney Carlos Palmer, who is representing the district in the hearing, has argued that

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## Carroll County native to lead UMMC Medical Center

By JEFF AMY  
Associated Press

JACKSON — Dr. LouAnn Woodward grew up on a dirt road in Carroll County and started her career as an emergency room doctor. But come June, she'll become the first woman to run the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The College Board, meeting in closed session Wednesday, named the 51-year-old Woodward as vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. She's been the second-in-command for the last five years to Dr. James Keeton. The 74-year-old plans to retire from the leadership post June 30.

"I believe that this institution can do wonderful things for Mississippi that no other institution can do," Woodward said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We're an economic driver; we are a major force in medical education; we take care of patients. And the opportunities we have to make Mississippi stronger and better are very special."

Ole Miss Chancellor Dan Jones, himself a former UMMC chief, said he chose Woodward after a national search. The second finalist was Dr. Stephen J. Spann, a family medicine physician who is chief medical officer for the Johns Hopkins University-affiliated hospital in the United Arab Emirates.

Jones said Woodward was not only helped by her long familiarity with UMMC, but also her "significant national experience" in medical education.

"She understands the health care needs of Mississippians," said outgoing Higher Education Commissioner Hank Bounds. "She clearly has a deep understanding of medical education and quality care. I'm thrilled that she's going to be in this position."

The new chief said it's been sev-



Dr. LouAnn Woodward will become vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the University of Mississippi Medical School on July 1.

University of Mississippi Medical Center

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## Poe lives 'dream' at station

Now just 1 WABG-AM owner

By BOB DARDEN  
Staff Writer

James Poe says he feels his "life's dream has come true" now that he is the sole owner of WABG-AM 960.

Poe, who has spent more than 40 years in radio broadcasting, became sole owner earlier this month.

He, blues historian Steve LaVere and Clarksdale Mayor Bill Luckett purchased the station in 2007 with the goal of making it a blues-driven station. On Jan. 6, 2008, "Awesome A-M" was launched, playing blues, news and interviews 24 hours a day.

Poe said keeping the station on the air has always been a challenge but is worth it. "It is an investor's nightmare because it is so old, dating back to 1950, even though we bought a new transmitter and invested in the upkeep of the building," he said.

LaVere sold his share to Poe in 2012, and Luckett sold his on Feb. 10. Poe said he was grateful to LaVere and Luckett for placing their confidence in him in the blues station's early years.

He said he has always had the freedom to do what he wanted at the station but is excited that the "training wheels have been taken off."

He said the station's format won't change much; it will keep going in the direction listeners want. "They know now, after being here eight years, that we are a genuine Delta blues station," Poe said.

He said the music makes the station special. "We work 10 times harder than anybody else. Folks will recognize that," he said.

Poe said besides the station's over-the-air listeners, which range as far away as Lake Village, Arkansas, to just outside Yazoo City and Starkville, the station has been streaming its signal on the Internet and has picked up devoted listeners in China and Japan. Those international listeners have helped to keep the station on the air.

He also said Beth Cook, a former "sidekick" and radio host, will be returning soon.

"I am very proud of the station and what we have accomplished over the past eight years," he said.

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Poe

## MVSU to add \$10 activity fee

By JEFF AMY  
Associated Press

JACKSON — Mississippi Valley State University is among four of Mississippi's public universities that are likely to begin charging student activity fees this fall, moving further away from the state's one-time policy of tuition including all charges.

The College Board on Wednesday approved for Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi to add \$5-a-semester fee and

for Valley and Jackson State University to add \$10-a-semester fees.

Board members must approve the fees again later.

The board also gave final approval Wednesday for Delta State University to begin charging a \$50-a-semester facilities fee, joining the Mississippi University for Women, Ole Miss and MSU.

Facility fees began in fall 2013, changing the policy of generally charging for only tuition, room and board.

The universities say stu-

dent groups need more money. Delta State plans to spend facilities money on renovations and upgrades.

Higher Education Commissioner Bounds said student government presidents first made the request. Students at MSU, Valley and JSU have voted in referenda to support the increases.

Davis Rogers, president of Ole Miss Associated Student Body, said that the money would be used to increase

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## Warmer weekend in forecast

By BOB DARDEN  
Staff Writer

After some very low temperatures this week, Saturday is shaping up to be a lot warmer — with a forecast high of 67 degrees — but some rain is coming, too.

Temperatures tonight are expected to be in the mid- to upper 20s.

Cloud cover overnight is expected to help raise temperatures, but it also brings the possibility of light sleet or freezing rain, which will

make driving difficult, said Daniel Lamb, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Jackson.

Temperatures on Friday are not expected to get above freezing until about noon. Lamb said light sleet or freezing rain could happen early Friday, making traveling hazardous.

Afternoon highs Friday are expected to be in the high 30s or low 40s, and the rain is expected to continue throughout the day.

"It will be a cold, dreary

rain," Lamb said.

Although warmer temperatures are predicted for Saturday, there also is a 70 percent chance of rain and thunderstorms throughout the evening, he said.

Sunday highs are expected to be in the mid-50s with a 40 percent chance of showers.

Lamb said temperatures heading into next week are likely to be considerably cooler.

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