

Delta Democrat Times

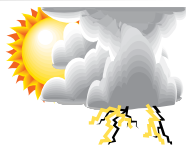


Greenville, Mississippi

• CHRONICLING THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA SINCE 1868 •

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Stroh named to new GAC position

For the delta democrat times
GREENVILLE — MacKenzie Stroh is the Greenville Arts Council's Director of Operations, a new position made possible by recent growth of the organization, according to GAC officials.

Current Executive Director Dr. Kathryn Cascio Lewis will become Director of Education in mid-August.

"Stroh brings a wealth of important experience and education to the position and will be an invaluable asset to the organization," said Mary Hardy, President of the Board of Directors. "In

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FBI seizes documents

SDRHA under investigation

"It's an ongoing investigation ... but we can confirm we are doing a federal search warrant"

Carl Cuneo
 FBI

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LELAND — The Federal Bureau of Investigation served a search warrant on South Delta Regional Housing Authority Wednesday morning.

The warrant, signed by Magistrate Judge David A. Sanders of the United States District Court Northern District of Mississippi, is part of an ongoing investigation by the Office of the Inspector General.

"They came in and had a warrant to seize some documents and some information that we had on the computer," said SDRHA lawyer Bennie L. Richard. "At this point, all we know is that it is part of an ongoing investigation. No one has been arrested or anything like that."

South Delta Regional Housing Authority Director Ann J. Jefferson said the allegations have no merit.

"I don't know where the allega-



LUTHER JOHNSON / DELTA DEMOCRAT TIMES

Federal agents remove boxes of paperwork from the offices of the South Delta Regional Housing Authority in Leland, Wednesday afternoon.

tions originate from, but I've been told we've been accused of using federal money for personal use and there is a question about the way we operate our Section 8 housing," said Jefferson. "Nothing could be further from the truth and as I told the investigators, they are free to look into everything we do. We don't have anything to hide."

About 2:30 p.m. agents began tak-

ing boxes of papers from the Leland office and loading them into a truck.

"It's an ongoing investigation so we can't comment, but we can confirm we are doing a federal search warrant," said Carl Cuneo, a Supervisory Senior Resident Agent with the FBI, who was with the agents at the housing authority. "It's a joint investigation by the FBI and the Housing and Urban Development Office

of the Inspector General."

While the warrant was being executed, citizens stopping by to do business at the housing authority were sent away, with agents telling them the offices were closed and that they "may be open tomorrow."

Within a half hour, the FBI had loaded more than 30 boxes, some labeled as "Payroll stubs," "1099 Forms," and monthly reports.

Council looks into wrecks of GPD, other department's vehicles

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GREENVILLE — Greenville City Council is reviewing instances of accidents involving city vehicles. The council is especially eyeing accidents involving the city's police department.

So far this year, according to figures released by City Attorney Andrew N. Alexander III, there have been 14 accidents. The cost of repair-

ing those vehicles is \$19,323.23 for an average of \$1,380.23 per car. Alexander's figures came from Milton Davenport, who is in charge of fleet management for the city.

"That is entirely too much money and the frequency of these incidents are very concerning," said Vice Mayor Kenneth Gines. "I've had discussions with the mayor (Heather Hudson) about this and we are looking into the

accidents. We're looking into accidents involving all city vehicles, not just the police department. We want to know why they are happening at such a large rate."

Greenville Police Chief Charles Patterson said that vehicle safety is a concern for the department.

"We talk about it constantly and when we have an accident, we research it," said Patterson. "We've handed out written reprimands and have suspended

people. What people have to understand is that we've got guys answering 78 to 80 calls a shift. They're trying to get to where they are needed. Sometimes, you're subject to have an accident. No one is looking to have an accident, but it does happen."

Vehicles operated by the Public Works Department were involved in six accidents with a total repair cost of \$8,496.77.

The Fire Department was involved in one accident. That involved a truck striking a vehicle while proceeding through an intersection with its lights and siren operating while on the way to a fire. The collision resulted in damages of \$17,820.20 to the fire engine.

There was also an accident involving a vehicle operated by Parks and

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