



John Thomas Murtagh placed Grand Champion Hog with his Hampshire in the 2017 Holmes County Livestock Show on Saturday, January 28. (Photo by Julie Ellison)



Tyler Diffey showed the Supreme Bull SVF Destiny during the 2017 Holmes County Livestock Show on Saturday, January 28. (Photo by Julie Ellison)



Drue Johnson showed the Reserve Champion Crossbred during the 2017 Holmes County Livestock Show on Saturday, January 28. (Photo by Julie Ellison)



"56D" shown by Tyler Diffey placed first in the Percentage Simmental Heifer category. "56D" was named Champion as well as Supreme Heifer in the Supreme Heifer Drive during the 2017 Holmes County Livestock Show on Saturday, January 28. (Photo by Julie Ellison)



Grayson Marshall showed the Reserve Champion Hampshire during the 2017 Holmes County Livestock Show on Saturday, January 28. (Photo by Julie Ellison)

Check back in the following weeks' Herald for more local and regional livestock show results!

Letter to the Editor

Lawmakers are in session in Jackson. Local school districts, property owners, superintendents and supervisors beware! The legislature is trying to lay the groundwork to raise your local taxes by shifting the responsibility of K-12 public school funding down to your counties and cities. How will that happen? Less school funding from Jackson, and higher school funding from the local districts, which will have to be locally voted on every single year. That way, your local of-

ficials will have to either raise your taxes or watch the schools fail. Of course, this is nothing but an effort to deflect blame in the next election cycle that legislators have once again underfunded the schools of our 490,000 children, ensuring that our best resource for attracting jobs is forever broken.

This is not law - yet. No, it is merely a set of "recommendations" from the super-secret study done by a New Jersey consulting company, EdBuild. Having listened to every word,

and read the whole 79-page sales brochure, I know enough to be scared, very scared. There is a popular question from a bestseller: "What is your one thing?" If these recommendations could talk and tell the truth, their one thing would be: Shift taxes to local taxpayers so we cannot be blamed.

The 79 pages can be boiled down to seven simple and devastating points:

1. Your local taxes will increase ("tax shift")
2. Your car tags will increase ("tax shift")
3. The State will send less money to your local school districts than it is sending now ("deflect")
4. Your state taxes will not decrease;
5. Poor and rural districts will take money from wealthier districts, but still not enough to survive (hmmm, sounds like 42-A threats);
6. Classroom sized will be increased, and there will be fewer teachers; and,
7. Assigning specific dollars to specific students is the first step toward vouchers and full charter schools.

The biggest sign that the

whole "plan" is suspect came when the CEO deflected a question during the presentation. Remember, this young company was hired to re-calculate the entire \$2 Billion education spending. The question was simple: Will this new formula, if adopted, mean more or less money than our schools are currently receiving? She simply responded: "I'm not good with math."

Now, we all know the real answer to that: Grab your wallets and prepare for your local taxes to go through the roof - with no relief from the budget mess in Jackson. Be prepared to share your views on this tax shift before the legislature has its way with your local property taxes. Otherwise, this will pass in the darkness of night.

It ALL starts with education!
Jay Hughes
State Representative
District 12 - Lafayette

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Delta State University announces honor lists

The following Delta State University student is listed on the President's List for the 2016 fall semester. For the honor, a grade-point average from 3.50 through 4.0 is required of full-time students carrying at least 12 semester hours.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Jason Howard of West. The following Delta State University student is listed on the Dean's List for the 2016 fall semester. For the honor, a grade-point average from 3.50 through 3.74 is required of full-time students carrying at least 12 semester hours.

DEAN'S LIST

Ashlyn Spell of Lexington.



Happy Groundhog Day!

EXPRESS GRAIN COMMODITY PRICES							
Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change	
Wheat	Mar 17	2017 Jan	4.14	-0.57	3.57	-0.07	
Wheat	Jul 17	2017 Jul	4.43	-0.30	4.13	-0.07	
Corn	Mar 17	2017 Jan	3.58	0.08	3.66	-0.05	
Corn	Sep 17	2017 Aug	3.79	-0.12	3.67	-0.04	
Soybeans Sldon	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Soybeans G'wood	Mar 17	2017 Jan	10.23	-0.07	10.16	-0.26	
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.04	0.01	10.05	-0.21	
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rice	Jan 17		9.765			-0.045	
Rice	Sep 17		10.495			-0.035	
Cotton	Mar 17		74.14			-0.710	
Cotton	May 17		74.84			-0.570	

Prices as of 2:00 p.m. on 1/30/17
Call to get daily bids by cell phone or email
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CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL THE HOLMES COUNTY 4-H WINNERS AND PARTICIPANTS!!!

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GREAT JOB!!!!

Congratulations to all the participants in the 2017 Holmes County 4-H Livestock Show.

HOLMES COUNTY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

Lexington, Goodman, Vaiden, and West

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