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“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
I John 4:7-8

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2017 Holmes County Livestock Show exhibitors displayed top livestock

From Staff Reports

The 57th annual Holmes County Livestock Show was a big success with a large turnout of exhibitors and fans.

In the Beef Showmanship event Livi Howell was first in the Junior category and Tyler Diffey was first in the senior category.

Davian Powell showed “Cinnamon” and placed first in the Brahman Commercial Heifer category with Austin Roebuck showing “Cool Cat” and taking first place in the Beefmaster Heifer category. Davian Powell took first in the Hereford Heifer category with “MSBJ Miss Della.” Sidney Sinclair’s “Dillons High Class” took first in the Junior Simmental Heifer category. Sinclair also showed “Dillons Hot-N-Ready” and took first in the Senior Simmental Heifer category. “Dillons High Class” was named Champion Simmental Heifer.

Tyler Diffey’s “56-D” was named Supreme Heifer in the Percentage Simmental Heifer category.

In the Beef Cattle Bull Show, Austin Roebuck’s “TL 5/16” took first for Beefmaster Bull, Tyler Diffey’s “SVF Destiny” took first for Simmental Bull with Davian Powell’s “MSBJ Crisco” taking first in the Hereford Bull category. Pearce Edwards’ “Dillons United” took first in Junior Simmental Percentage Bull and Pearce Edwards and Livi Howell’s “Dillons Uproar” took first in the Senoir Simmental Percentage Bull category. “Dillons United” was named Champion Percentage Simmental Bull. “SVF Destiny” was named Supreme Bull.

John Hudson Word took first place in Junior Goat Showmanship and Kylee Killebrew took first place in Senior Goat Showmanship.

Kylee Killebrew showed the

Champion Meat Doe and Jordan Brooks showed the Reserve Champion.

Kylee Killebrew showed both the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Goats.

Livi Howell took first place in Lamb Showmanship. Colton Howell’s lamb was named Champion Market Lamb.

Hanna Hood took first place in the Rookie Swine Showmanship, Drue Johnson took first place in the 9-11 year-old age group, Livi Howell took first place in the 12-13 age group and John Thomas Murtagh took first place in the 14-18 age group.

John Thomas Murtagh showed the Champion Market Barrow and Hanna Hood showed the Reserve Champion.

John Thomas Murtagh showed the Champion Spot and Colton Howell showed the Reserve Champion.

Bennett Word showed the

Champion Chester and John Thomas Murtagh showed the Reserve Champion Chester.

John Thomas Murtagh showed the Champion Duroc and Rayne Tate showed the Reserve Champion.

John Thomas Murtagh showed the Champion Hampshire and Grayson Marshall showed the Reserve Champion.

John Thomas Murtagh showed the Champion Yorkshire and Rayne Tate showed the Reserve Champion.

Pearce Edwards showed the Champion Crossbred and Drue Johnson showed the Reserve Champion Crossbred.

John Thomas Murtagh showed the 2017 Grand Champion Hog (Hampshire) and Pearce Edwards showed the Reserve Grand Champion (Crossbred).

Sidney Sinclair was the recipient of the 2017 James “Bubba” Cunningham Award and the 2017 Payton Netherland Memorial Scholarship for her achievements in the Holmes County Junior Livestock Program.

don’t get to do this much where the public and the government agree on anything. We agreed on a structure and my team started fundraising.”

The project will be completed in late October. Sponsors who have helped fund the project include Entergy Mississippi, PowerTree and UtiliTree Carbon Companies, The Cox Foundation from Atlanta, Caterpillar Foundation, Walker Foundation, Delta Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Construction was slated to begin in late September. The structure is a large metal gate that will allow the water to be adjusted up and down.

“It’s a series of gates inside a metal weir,” he says.

“I have to tip my hat to the private landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the funders to all come together,” he says. “It’s good for us and good for Mississippi.”

Mathews Brake NWR is part of the state park system established in 1980. The more than 2,400-acre park features a 1,810-acre oxbow lake home to baldcypress and water tupelo trees as well as buttonbush and American lotus. It is an oasis for migratory birds with 422 acres of bottomland hardwood and more than 180 acres of reforestation. Located in Leflore County, it is the largest brake in the county and has over 30,000 ducks annually. The park is also open to hunting and fishing during the day.



(Photo by Delta Business Journal)

Delta railroads vital for economic development

By Becky Gillette
Delta Business Journal

Having a good rail transportation system connecting the Mississippi Delta to markets outside the region is critical to the economic health of the Delta today and in the future, says Frank Howell, director of the Delta Council Development Department.

“We are fortunate to have the main line of Canadian National (CN), and then we have some class two and class three rail lines that feed into the class one lines,” Howell says. “These rail lines are fundamental for economic development. The effort done on the abandoned CN rail line between Holmes County and DeSoto County to save that rail line is a testament to why it is so important. The communities along that line understood they needed to expend every effort they could to continue to be the most attractive for developing and retaining jobs.”

Delta Council recently passed a resolution urgently requesting that the Mississippi Development Authority, the governor and the Mississippi Legislature take steps to extend incentives to railroads to enhance railroad service as an option in the transportation of raw materials and finished goods.

“The future of industrial development and competitive freight rates for existing business is closely tied to the availability of rail service,” the resolution states. “Although inventory controls and ‘just-in-time’ delivery of raw materials and finished goods has challenged our U.S. railroad system, especially in rural areas, the majority of new investments made by manufacturers are made at industrial sites upon the condition that rail siding is available. Oftentimes, the existence of rail service alone generates competitive freight rates for other

intermodal transportation alternatives. Delta Council also continues to support a rail bridge to be included as part of the I-69-Mississippi River crossing.”

Railroad availability is key to the competitiveness of the Delta and the State of Mississippi, says Pablo Diaz, executive director of the Grenada County Economic Development District and a member of the board of the North Central Mississippi Regional Railroad Authority, which has taken over ownership of the 187-mile Grenada Railroad that runs from Memphis to near Canton. “Our communities must do everything they can to maintain and enhance their rail service offerings if they are to remain competitive in the marketplace.”

Diaz says since the change of management of the Grenada Railroad, the North Central Mississippi region has seen an increase of economic activity and multiple investments in improvements of the rail line.

“Iowa Pacific (IP) Holdings (the new operator) has concentrated its efforts in upgrading the southern end of the line and in developing new business,” Diaz says. “IP has proven to be a strong ally of the economic development community by designing innovative ways to provide rail service to local and regional customers and by helping us promote the region’s assets to their extensive list of industry contacts across the country.” Another successful public effort to retain critical rail service in the Delta was the Coahoma County purchase of the rail line in Coahoma County that feeds into CN. Ron Hudson, executive director, Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce, says when Illinois Central decided to abandon the line that went through the county, it was picked up and owned

(Continued on page 6.)

Preserving a duck hunt paradise

By Mark H. Stowers
Delta Business Journal

Duck hunters are among some of the most serious hunters around. Their devotion to the quacking fowl has made millionaires out of duck call makers and other hunting amenity makers. The Delta area has become a duck hunter’s paradise over the years and now one of the most sought after destinations, Mathews Brake in Leflore County will become more of a permanent spot for ducks.

Alex Littlejohn, Associate State Director of the Mississippi Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, has been working

with a private/public partnership to help create a long lasting duck hunting venue at Mathews Brake.

“I grew up duck hunting and Mathews Brake is one of those iconic Delta waterfowl destination areas,” Littlejohn says. “It’s in between Sidon and Morgan City and it’s actually a U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuge. Probably about 70 percent is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

The Nature Conservancy was approached by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife organization to help figure out how to make the brake more sustainable for hunt-



(Photo by Delta Business Journal)

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Holmes County 7-Day Forecast for February 2 - 8 as reported on THE WEATHER CHANNEL

Thursday Showers 59/45 Precip. Chance 40%	Friday Showers 52/38 Precip. Chance 60%	Saturday Partly Cloudy 60/50 Precip. Chance 10%	Sunday A.M. Showers 66/51 Precip. Chance 40%	Monday Partly Cloudy 71/57 Precip. Chance 20%	Tuesday Scattered T'Storms 74/60 Precip. Chance 60%	Wednesday Showers 62/41 Precip. Chance 60%

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