



Holmes County Career Technical Center Construction and Carpentry class competed in the 2017 SkillsUSA-MS District Conference Region 2 on Thursday, February 9, at MS Delta Community College in Moorhead. Students in attendance were Cedrick Smith (pictured at right), contestant, Tyreck Davis (at left), helper, and Jaquan Coleman, helper. The students (Cedrick Smith) placed 2nd in the carpentry contest and competed in the State Leadership and Skills Competition in Jackson on February 28 - March 1 at the Trade Mart Center. Students were accompanied by Mr. Carl Bibbs, instructor, and Ms. Loretta Tidwell, Student Services Coordinator. (Photo submitted)

Forestry Commission urges precaution during Wildfire Prevention Month

March is Wildfire Prevention Month in Mississippi as stated by Governor Phil Bryant’s proclamation. Historically, March has one of the highest wildfire occurrence rates of the year due to the weather transition from winter to spring, dry vegetation, and windy conditions. Since January 1, 2017, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) responded to and suppressed 491 wildfires that burned 9,422 acres. MFC Wildland Firefighters saved 1,072 homes and structures. Wildfire activity destroyed or damaged 28 homes and structures. Sadly, 2 wildfire-related fatalities were reported. “Nationwide, 9 out of 10 wildfires are human-caused, which means 9 out of 10 wildfires could have been prevented with proper care. Wildfire prevention month allows us to

highlight the responsibility of Mississippi’s citizens to help protect lives, homes, and forestland by focusing on how to prevent wildfires,” said Charlie Morgan, State Forester. Please do your part to help prevent wildfires by following the tips below: Check the local weather forecast - do not engage in any outdoor burning on dry, windy days. If the purpose of the burn is agriculture or forestry related, call the MFC Central Dispatch Center for your area to obtain a burning permit. Always find out if there is a burn ban in your area before doing any outdoor recreational burning. To see a list of burn bans, click here. Check local laws and city ordinances in your area to make

sure outdoor recreational burning is allowed. Choose a safe burn site - the ground around the burn site should be surrounded by gravel or dirt and clear of vegetation that could catch fire (minimum of 10 feet in all directions). Only burn untreated wood debris (waste, plastic, rubber tires, and other manufactured products may not be burned). Click here to view the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality standards regarding outdoor burning. Keep campfires small and never leave an outdoor fire unattended. Always have water on hand to put out the fire and stay until it has been completely extinguished. When homes are near wooded areas, prescribed (or controlled) burning can be utilized responsibly by a Certified Burn Manager to reduce fuel for wildfires. Prescribed burning clears underbrush and other flammable vegetation that builds up on the forest floor. A burning permit from the MFC is required for this activity. To learn more about becoming a Certified Burn Manager, click here. Make Firewise preparations to help defend your home in the event of a wildfire. The Firewise program equips homeowners and community leaders with the information they need to help design, construct, landscape, and maintain homes and communities to better withstand wildfires. To learn more about how to have a Firewise home, click here. To report a wildfire, dial 911 or call the Central Dispatch Cen-

Fish attractors added to Holmes County State Park Lake

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) fisheries biologists are excited about the upcoming fishing season in Central Mississippi. During summer and fall fish population sampling on Ross Barnett Reservoir, a large number of shad was observed. These fish will provide quality forage for largemouth bass, crappie, and catfish. “We also saw an increase in overall condition and abundance of largemouth bass compared to last year,” said MDWFP fisheries biologist Ryan Jones. According to Jones, “We collected more largemouth bass over fifteen inches than we have in previous years on Ross Barnett Reservoir. The increase in abundance is due to an excellent spawn in 2013.” Ross Barnett Reservoir is not the only location in Central Mississippi to catch quality fish. Trophy bass can be caught at Neshoba County Lake and Simpson County Lake. These lakes produce lunkers over ten pounds every year. Early March is a great time to catch big fish as they move shallow to spawn. Okatibbee Reservoir, Kemper County Lake, and Eagle Lake

are great crappie producers. According to Jones, “We sunk multiple brush piles in Kemper County Lake which make fish attractors for anglers to target.” Fish attractors were also added to Holmes County State Park Lake and Lake Claude Bennett. Large bream are available at Lake Prentiss Walker and Eagle Lake, where angler-harvested fish averaged over half a pound during 2016. Catfish anglers should visit MDWFP State Fishing Lakes Claude Bennett, Neshoba County, or Tom Bailey for relaxed fishing in a beautiful setting.



Holmes County Career Technical Center students Cedrick Smith (pictured second from left), contestant, and Christopher Nelson (second from right), helper, competed in carpentry at the SkillsUSA State Competition. Mr. Carl Bibbs serves as the carpentry instructor. Pictured above are (from left): Kendrick Powell, Cedrick Smith, Christopher Nelson, and Jaquan Coleman. (Photo submitted)

Spring is in the Air: Join the Arbor Day Foundation and Receive 10 Free Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for everyone to celebrate the arrival of spring by planting trees. Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March 2017 and receive 10 free white pine trees or 10 white flowering dogwood trees. “White pine trees or white flowering dogwoods will add beauty to your home throughout the year,” said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Dogwoods are known for their showy spring flowers and red berries that attract songbirds during winter. White pine trees are fast-growing landscape trees that will break heavy winds, making them an ideal addition

to any yard.” The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation’s Trees for America campaign. With planting instructions included, the trees will be shipped at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to Arbor Day, the Foundation’s bimonthly publication, and The Tree Book, which contains in-

formation about tree planting and care. To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE WHITE PINE or 10 FREE DOGWOOD TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31, 2017. Or join online at arborday.org/march.

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Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	Mar 17	2017 Mar	4.59	-0.57	4.02	0.05
Wheat	Jul 17	2017 Jul	4.73	-0.27	4.46	0.05
Corn	Mar 17	2017 Mar	3.79	0.01	3.80	-0.02
Corn	Sep 17	2017 Aug	3.92	0.03	3.95	-0.02
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soybeans G'wood	Mar 17	2017 Mar	10.37	-0.17	10.20	-0.04
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.22	-0.04	10.18	-0.05
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 17	2017 Aug Sep	10.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rice	Feb 17		9.575			-0.010
Rice	Sep 17		10.050			-0.010
Cotton	Mar 17		79.11			1.120
Cotton	Dec 17		75.44			0.500

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