

Lottery, school funding could get Mississippi debate in 2018

Associated Press

The Mississippi Legislature on Tuesday started its three-month session with plenty of issues to consider.

Lawmakers could debate creating a lottery. They could try to rewrite a school funding formula. They could seek a long-term plan to pay for highway construction.

Tchula native named to NWCC Dean's List

Kelly Common of Tchula is among the list of distinguished Northwest Mississippi Community College students to be recognized for making the Dean's List for their outstanding academic work during the Fall 2017 semester.

The Dean's List includes students completing a minimum of 12 semester hours with a 3.50 to 3.74 grade point average.

Northwest offers the prerequisites students need to prepare for a four-year degree at any of Mississippi's colleges and universities. Northwest also offers more than 30 Career and Technical programs designed to teach students the practical skills needed for a wide variety of jobs in the workforce.

Mississippi is one of six states without a lottery. House Speaker Philip Gunn and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves both oppose creating one, but the Republican leaders have acknowledged that many legislators would like to vote on the issue.

"I do not believe it is the huge revenue increase that some have said it would

be," Reeves told reporters Tuesday. "Because I think what you would see is some folks that are spending 100 percent of their disposable income ... rather than just going to the grocery store and buying a Coke or buying a pack of Nabs, they would instead go and buy lottery tickets."

In a separate interview Tuesday, Gunn said his

top priorities are rewriting Mississippi's public school funding formula, finding more money for roads and bridges, and reauthorizing the state's Medicaid program.

"We want to find a formula that is predictable, that is understandable, that is reliable," Gunn said the proposed overhaul of the \$2 billion-plus school funding formula.

Gunn said a bill was being drafted that would resemble many of the recommendations of EdBuild, a New Jersey-based nonprofit group that made suggestions last year at the behest of Republican leaders.

The current funding formula, called the Mississippi Adequate Education Pro-

gram, was put into law in 1997. It is intended to give each school district enough money to meet midlevel education standards, but legislators have only fully funded it two years.

Democratic Sen. Hob Bryan of Amory, who helped write the current formula, said legislators back then conducted committee meetings that were open to the public. He said the process this time is secretive.

"The fact that this has been going on now for more than a year and it's still taking place in secret ought to absolutely terrify everybody who cares about public education in the state of Mississippi," Bryan said Tuesday.

This is the second year of a four-year term. Republicans continue holding a supermajority in both the House and the Senate, after special elections to fill seats of legislators who left.

The GOP gained one Senate seat when Democrat Bill Stone of Holly Springs departed and a Republican, Neil Whaley of Potts Camp, was elected.

Republican Sen. Joel Carter of Harrison County was inaugurated Tuesday to succeed Sean Tindell of Gulfport, who was appointed to a nonpartisan judicial post.

Other new lawmakers were sworn in after winning special elections in 2017.

Their elections did not change the partisan balance of power.

One seat remains open because Republican Rep. John Moore of Brandon resigned in early December. A special election is Feb. 20.



January 4 - Bobby Williamson, Myrtis Powell, Lynne Ellison Smithhart, Lisa T. Bethany, Teresha Fields

January 5 - Karmen Smith, Patrick Bond, Stacie Allen, Lauren M. Ellison, Ronnie Ables, Alandria Ross, Skylar Payton

January 6 - Allen Wyche Standrod, Robert Davis, Edmond Clark, Coretha Smith, Peggy Ables, Helen Roy, Louis Scott

January 7 - Torrence Nickerson, Susan Chamblee, Jean Golden Branch

January 8 - Pearce Edwards, Charles Loflin, Ja'Kiya Ja'Liyah Watson, Jarneze Huntley, Christi Thornton Ramage, Tracy Hathcock, Hunter Burns

January 9 - Doyle Gilmore, Jr., Jeremy Hobson,



January 4 - Mike and Notie Turner

January 7 - Lance and Mary Katherine White

January 10 - John and Denise Grover

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

Cody Holland
January 10 - Tina Pierce, Sterling Starns, Ashley Rowlen, Derek Dodd, Angelica Brown, Arthur Sumerall, Corey Garrett, Stacey Riley, Alexandria Rogers



God is Still Sovereign

Paul urges us to "rejoice in the Lord always!" (Philippians 4:4). Not just on paydays, good days, or birthdays. But rejoice in the Lord always.

Rejoice in the Lord always? "Yeah, right," mumbles the person from the hospital bed. "How?" sighs the unemployed dad. "Always?" questions the mother of the baby born with a disability.

It's one thing to rejoice in the Lord when life is good, but when the odds are against you? It's not easy, but it is possible. Lay claim to the promise of God in Colossians 1:17: "He is before all things, and in him all

things hold together." Rejoice in the sovereignty of God. His throne is still occupied. His will is still perfect. Rejoice in the Lord--always.

God uses everything to accomplish his will.

From *Anxious for Nothing*.
UpWords, with Max Lucado is a popular daily Bible devotion. This Max Lucado devotion offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life. Reading daily devotions provides strength and encouragement in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.
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Obituary

MICHAEL JOE KEITH

Michael Joe Keith, 48, of Goodman passed away on Friday, December 22, 2017. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at the Sallis Baptist Church in Sallis, MS. Burial will be in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Lexington, MS.



It sure felt good going home to Coffeetown and no one was really sick or hospitalized. Of course my baby brother had a cold; he almost had pneumonia.

Rev. Willie Reeves, retired coach for the pee wee football team for William Dean Jr. Elementary School, the former L.E.S., passed recently. Under his leadership L.E.S. won many football games. At one time, he pastored Rice Chapel C.M.E. Church.

Mrs. Martha Anderson

passed recently. She is the mother of County Supervisor Henry Anderson. She was the widow of longtime school board member Mr. James Anderson, deceased.

Fred Horton, of Tchula, came home for the Christmas holidays. He is still at home. Willie Beamon also came home for the holidays. He also lives in Tchula. They both came from rehabs. Pray for these men. Their health is in the hand of God. Mrs. Katie Horton takes care of them and she's in bad health too.

LEGALS

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2015, Perry Lee Latiker, Jr., Single, executed a Deed of Trust to W. Stewart Robison, Trustee for Ditech Financial LLC, Beneficiary, which Deed of Trust is recorded in Land Deed of Trust Book 2015, at Page 3748-3751, in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Holmes County, Mississippi;

AND WHEREAS, this Deed of Trust was ultimately assigned to U.S. Bank, N.A., as trustee for Mid-State Trust VIII, by instrument recorded in Book 2017, at Page 928-940, in the office of the Chancery Clerk aforesaid;

AND WHEREAS, default having been made in payment of the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note and Deed of Trust having requested the undersigned Trustee so to do, I will on the 16th day of January, 2018, offer for sale at public outcry and sell during legal hours between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., at the north door of the County Courthouse of Holmes County, at Lexington, Mississippi, for cash to the highest and best bidder, the following described land and property, situated in Holmes County, Mississippi, to-wit:

A parcel of land containing 1.00 acres located in the Southeast Quarter, Section 12, Township 15 North, Range 2 East, Holmes County, Mississippi. Described as follows: beginning at an iron bar set that is 127.86 feet South of and 487.00 feet East of a concrete monument at the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 12 and then run East 161.15 feet to an iron bar set; then South 343.89 feet to an iron bar set on the North boundary of Busy Bee Road; then Northwesterly along said North boundary in a curve to the left (radius = 693.34; chord = North 50 degrees 22 minutes 53 seconds West) for 210.00 feet to an iron bar set; then North 210.49 feet to the point of beginning.

I will convey only such title as is vested in me as Trustee.

WITNESS MY SIGNATURE, this, the 13th day of December, 2017.

/s/ W. Stewart Robison, Trustee
ROBISON & HOLMES, SOLS.
12-21,28;1-4,11b



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