

**HERALD  
BRIEF**

**County animal rescue to  
meet today at Gladys'**

The Jennifer Sterling Brown Animal Rescue of Holmes County will meet today, February 22, 5:15 p.m. at Gladys' Restaurant.

Residents from each municipality in Holmes County are invited to attend is addressing the stray dog and cat populations.

Donations are always accepted of dog and cat food, puppy and kitten food, kennels, old blankets, kitty litter and chew toys.

Foster homes and transport drivers are also needed. Those interested are welcome.

**Arts Council Blues fund  
raiser set for Friday**

The Holmes County Arts Council will hold its annual fund-raising gala on the evening of Friday, February 23.

The theme for this year's gala is "Blues, Boots and BBQ."

Social hour and silent auction will be held from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.

Entertainment will begin at 8:00 and go until, featuring musical selections by The Village Band.

Tickets are \$50 (donation) and may be purchased by calling 601-927-5155.

The gala is the one fund raiser for the Arts Council each year. The funds will go to the maintenance of the building located on the Court Square in Lexington and featured programs held throughout the year, such as "Amahl" performed by the Jackson Opera in December and other events throughout the year including New Stage productions for children; country, bluegrass music and art classes.

The Holmes County Arts Council was started in 2000-2001 by interested and dedicated citizens to bring enrichment events to all of Holmes County and the surrounding communities.

**\$800,000 bond set for all  
three Valentine's murder suspects**

By Matthew Breazeale

Three young men sat on the front row bench in Lexington Justice Court Tuesday morning waiting for Judge Marcus Fisher to enter the courtroom.

All donning orange jumpsuits, Andrekious Johnson, 20, Calvin Gibson, Jr., 29, and Dwrone Brown, 18, stared blankly ahead occasionally glancing around. All three are charged with capital murder.

A Medstat Ambulance responded to 111 Old Tchula Road in Lexington in the early hours of Valentine's Day at 4:30.

Brandon Cooper, 29, son of Lexington Alderwoman-at-Large Clementene Cooper, was reportedly found unresponsive by first responders. Brandon's reported girlfriend, Onassis Alexander, contacted authorities.

Holmes County Coroner Dexter Howard responded



ANDREKIOUS JOHNSON



CALVIN GIBSON, JR.



DWRONE BROWN

soon after. Howard said an official autopsy will be pend-

ing for some time but that Brandon suffered at least one gunshot wound in the torso.

Lexington Police Investigator John Newton said earlier in the morning of February 14, police responded to the Old Tchula Road area after a report of gunshots around 12:30. However, no disturbance was found at that time.

Newton said the investigation is still ongoing.

Unofficial local sources say that gambling may have been a factor in the crime and that Brandon possibly was shot at a separate location and walked back to his residence on Old Tchula Road.

Johnson and Brown were arrested the same day Brandon died with Gibson turning himself in to authorities on Saturday, February 17.

After their initial court appearances and bonds set at

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**Holmes County man who stole guns from firearms  
dealer pleads guilty to illegally possessing a firearm**

Corey Hughes, 36, of Holmes County, pled guilty on Tuesday, February 13, before U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves, to being a felon in possession of a firearm, announced U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst and Special Agent in Charge Dana Nichols of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Around 2:30 a.m. on July 28, 2014, Corey Hughes and co-defendant Estelle Cook tore a hole in the side of Central Mississippi Firearms, a gun store in Kosciusko, Mississippi, and stole 41 guns.

Hughes, Cook, co-defendant Darnell Branch, and others sold at least a dozen of the stolen firearms in Durant and Lexington. Hughes sold at least one of the stolen guns to Jermaine Griffin for \$100.

On October 3, 2017, a federal grand jury indicted Corey Hughes, Estelle Cook, Darnell Branch, and Frederick Russell for their unlawful conspiracy to possess and sell stolen firearms. That same day, a federal grand jury indicted Jermaine Griffin for receiving and possessing a stolen firearm.

At his hearing on Thursday, February 15, Hughes became the fourth defendant to plead guilty.

On January 10, co-defendant Frederick Russell pled guilty

to conspiracy to possess and

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Tyler Branch won the Dixie National Meat Goat Premier Exhibitor Contest and showed the Reserve Champion Lightweight Market Goat, both of which earned him recognition in the coveted Dixie National Sale of Champions. Tyler is pictured with his mother, Angela Love, after having received his awards. (Photo by Betsy Padgett)



Tyler Diffey was named a 2018 Dixie National Livestock Exhibitor Scholarship recipient at the recent Dixie National Sale of Champions. Tyler is pictured receiving his plaque from Commissioner of Agriculture Cindy Hyde-Smith (left) and Governor Phil Bryant (right). Tyler also showed the Champion Percentage Simmental Bull at the Dixie National Junior Livestock Show. Tyler is the son of Dayle Diffey of Lexington and Steve Diffey of Goodman. (Photo by Betsy Padgett)



Rayne Tate was named a 2018 Dixie National Livestock Exhibitor Scholarship recipient the recent Dixie National Sale of Champions. Rayne is pictured receiving her plaque from Commissioner of Agriculture Cindy Hyde-Smith (left) and Governor Phil Bryant (right). Rayne is the daughter of Anita and George Tate of Lexington. (Photo by Betsy Padgett)



John Thomas Murtagh was named a 2018 Dixie National Livestock Exhibitor Scholarship recipient the recent Dixie National Sale of Champions. John Thomas is pictured receiving his plaque from Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture (left) and Governor Phil Bryant (right) John Thomas is the son of Kathy and Johnny Murtagh of Ebenezer. (Photo by Betsy Padgett)

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**Thursday**  
Thunderstorms  
80/63  
Precip. Chance  
80%



**Friday**  
P.M. Showers  
75/65  
Precip. Chance  
60%



**Saturday**  
Thunderstorms  
76/54  
Precip. Chance  
80%



**Sunday**  
Partly Cloudy  
65/53  
Precip. Chance  
20%



**Monday**  
A.M. Showers  
70/51  
Precip. Chance  
40%



**Tuesday**  
P.M. Rain  
67/52  
Precip. Chance  
40%



**Wednesday**  
Showers  
66/55  
Precip. Chance  
50%

**How to reach us**

PHONE • 834-1151

FAX • 834-1074

EMAIL

hcherald@gmail.com