

## Senator Blackmon: State should make monies available for metal detectors

Recently we passed House Bill 1083 known as the "School Safety Act." It would allow school leaders the option to arm certain staff members and seek proper emergency response training through an approved course by the Department of Public Safety as a means of protecting life in an emergency until law enforcement arrives on campus. I voted against this bill



SENATOR BARBARA BLACKMON

because educators should not have to be trained to protect their students. The state should make monies available for metal detectors, trained police officers, mental health counselors and other safety measures as what Florida passed where the last massacre occurred. The Pew Center, a non-partisan policy institute found that only 20% of trained police officers in a crisis situation hit their targets. The New York Police Department that is the most trained in the country only has an 18% rate of hitting their targets in an active crisis situation. If the most trained Police Department in the country has an 18% rate, how can we expect our teachers to use a pistol or gun against an assault weapon? We are not addressing these issues.

would make parole eligible inmates who have served 25-percent of their sentence if they were not convicted of a violent crime, drug trafficking, sex crime or other crime that prohibits early release. It also would direct the Legislative PEER Committee to conduct a one-time jail population census throughout the state and to create the Mississippi Sentencing Disparity Task Force as recommended by the Re-Entry council.

We amended and passed House Bill 387, that would mandate court officials to not automatically jail persons who are legitimately unable to pay fines, restitution and court costs and

We passed House Bill 766 that would enable the state Fair Commission to purchase property to its east when money becomes available.

The vacant buildings could provide expansion space for the fairgrounds.

We also passed House Bill 1390 that would create a voluntary whitetail deer and turkey harvest reporting system to allow hunters to inform officials with the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks of their harvest so state officials have a better idea on the popula-

tions of those game animals. It carries no penalty for not reporting.

Our passage of House Bill 1264 would create the Mississippi Terroristic Threats Law that allows a felony charge for those who call in threats to schools or officials. It would carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison. If the offender is a youth, the case would be handled in Youth Court.

We agreed to House changes to certain Senate bills and we approved some House bills that bore identical language to Senate bills we already approved.

We passed a Rules calendar that saluted some of our finest citizens and their contributions to the state.

Other bills passed included:

- House Bill 1510 that would ban abortions after 15 weeks of gestation. I voted against this bill because it is the most restrictive in the Nation and the law of the land has been already decided by the United States Supreme Court. We do not provide adequate health care, child care or education to our children but we want to address the womb.

- House Bill 1288 would authorize the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory to charge a \$300 fee for certain analysis.

- House Bill 827 would give owners of mobile homes an avenue by which they could more easily seek mortgage loans on the structures and land like owners of conventional homes do.

- House Bill 354 creates an avenue for funding the Local Bridge Replacement Program.

- House Bill 1199 would authorize the Department of Finance and Administration to sell or lease 40 acres of land in Lamar County that belongs to the University of Southern Mississippi, but is not critical to the school's future growth.

- House Bill 1041 would allow the Department of Marine Resources to extend from five years to 10 years, the valid time for governmental entity permits.

## March means time for Turkey Season

For most, March is a time for beautiful spring weather and flowers in bloom. For Mississippi's estimated 50,000 wild turkey hunters, it also brings something else. The spring turkey season begins on March 15th and ends May 1st. For hunters age 15 and under, the Youth season begins a week earlier on March 8th. Bag limits for the spring season are one adult gobbler (or gobbler with at least a 6-inch beard) per day, not to exceed three per spring season. Youth hunters 15 years of age and younger may har-

vest one gobbler of choice per day, not to exceed three per spring season.

"Turkey hunting is a pretty popular pursuit in Mississippi," said Adam Butler, the Wild Turkey Program Coordinator for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP). "We don't have as many turkey hunters as we do deer or duck hunters, but generally speaking, turkey hunters tend to be a very intense bunch," continued Butler.

To participate in spring turkey season, Mississippi residents, ages sixteen through sixty-four, must obtain a hunting license unless their own name. All non-resident hunters, except minors under the age of sixteen, are required to obtain a hunting license while hunting in the state of Mississippi. In addi-

tion to any statewide license requirements, purchase of a Wildlife Management Area User Permit is required prior to hunting on public Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Hunters planning to hunt WMAs or any other public lands are urged to check the area-specific regulations before going afield. Season dates and bag limits on some Wildlife Management Areas may differ from the statewide framework. Hunting on many Wildlife Management Areas is by drawn permit only during the first two weeks of the season; some areas are permit-only throughout the entire season. Other public lands may also require special permits.

For more information regarding Mississippi's spring turkey season, visit our website at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com) or call us at (601) 432-2212. Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdwfp](http://www.facebook.com/mdwfp) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline](http://www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline).

- House Bill 1096 would abolish inactive boards, commissions, councils and committees.

I enjoy serving you and when you need me at the Capitol, please call me at 601-359-3237.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEADLINE: 4 p.m., FRIDAY

**ST. PAUL C.O.G.I.C.**  
St. Paul Church of God in Christ in Lexington will host two programs on Sunday, March 25.

Palm Sunday Program will be at 11 a.m. with the Wide Awake Program at 5 p.m. 3-15,22

**DAMASCUS M.B.C.**  
Damascus M.B. Church in Durant will host a musician's appreciation program for Floyd Keys on Saturday, March 31 at 6 p.m. Performance groups can render two selections of their choice. 3-15,22

**WEST GROVE M.B.C.**  
West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will host its Pastor and Wife's 8th Year

Appreciation Service on Sunday, March 25 at 2:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. 3-15,22

**F.B.C. DURANT**  
The Durant First Baptist Church Choir will give two performances of its Easter Cantata, "Redeeming Love," Saturday, March 24, 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Lexington and on Sunday, March 25, 5 p.m. at FBC Durant, with a fellowship time to follow. 3-22

**HOLLY GROVE M.B.C.**  
Holly Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will host its Pastor and Wife's 25th Year Pre-Anniversary Program on Friday, March 23 at 7 p.m. The Anniversary Program

will be held on Sunday, March 25 at 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. 3-15,22

**GUIDING LIGHT**  
Guiding Light Church of God in Christ in Lexington will hold Passion Week Services on Wednesday, March 28 and Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. and then on Good Friday, March 30 at 12 noon. 3-22

**SHILOH M.B.C.**  
Shiloh M.B. Church will host its Pastor and Wife's, Robert and Frances Williams, 13th Year Anniversary on Sunday, April 1, at 12 p.m. 3-22,29

**ST. JOSEPH C.O.G.I.C.**  
St. Joseph Church of God in Christ in West will host the Lewis and Keys Family and Friends Day Program on Sunday, March 25 at 11 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. This event is free and open to the public. 3-22

**NEWPORT M.B.C.**  
Newport M.B. Church in Lexington will hold Spring Revival on Sunday, April 1 at 6 p.m. and Monday, April 2 through Wednesday, April 4 at 7:00 nightly. 3-22,f29

(USPS 247-680)  
**HOLMES COUNTY HERALD**  
Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, Mississippi by Holmes County Herald, Lexington, Mississippi.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Holmes County Herald, P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095. Published each Thursday at 308 Court Square, Lexington, MS 39095. Telephone 662-834-1151;

Fax 662-834-1074; Email [hcherald@gmail.com](mailto:hcherald@gmail.com); Website [www.holmescountyherald.com](http://www.holmescountyherald.com)  
Matthew Breazeale..Editor  
Julie Ellison.....Manager

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
In Holmes County - \$35.00  
In Mississippi - \$40.00  
Outside Mississippi - \$50.00  
**SENIOR CITIZEN'S RATES**  
(Age 60+ \$1.00 off.)

# CASH PLUS TITLE PLUS

205 Tchula St., Lexington, MS  
(across from Double Quick)  
662-834-9045

Payday Loans up to \$400.00  
Title Loans up to \$2,500.00

WE DO 30 DAY LOANS!!!  
NO Credit Check

Refer a friend, earn a free \$20.00!

Happy Birthday  
In Remembrance of  
Zelphia Flowers  
From all of your Sisters  
and Brothers.  
March 28, 1928 -  
December 19, 2009

Happy Birthday  
C.L. Jenkins

March 24, 1923 May 23, 2011

We will always  
love and miss  
you so much.  
Love your  
Family and Duck