

# MDOC calling on businesses to help find jobs for ex-offenders

The Mississippi Department of Corrections is calling on businesses across the state to help inmates find employment once they are released from prison. Statewide Re-entry Coordinator Matthew L. Riley, who started in the newly created position September 1, plans to travel with other MDOC Re-entry/Pre-release employees to 82 counties to speak directly with potential employers. He has already visited a dozen counties since launching the “82 Counties in 82 Days” initiative on January 22. “It has been shown that employment is key to individuals successfully re-integrating into society when they are released from prison,” Commissioner

Pelicia E. Hall said. “Therefore, helping offenders find a job is very important. Stable employment provides them a sense of worth, a feeling of accomplishment and self-reliability. They become taxpayers rather than tax burdens.” Most employers contacted thus far have been positive, Riley said. Some, however, have zero tolerance for hiring a person with a criminal record, and then there are some who are willing to work with the offender, based on the type of conviction and how old it is, Riley said. The Federal Bonding Program is available to protect employers with reservations about hiring ex-offenders for fear that

the persons would be dishonest, he said. The workforce service protects employers from loss of money or property. “We are asking employers or businesses for their policy on hiring, if they have a job opening, if they hiring and what type of employees are they looking for,” said Riley, whose 20 years of experience in both the public and private sector in corrections, education, and the judiciary has emboldened him against rejection.

MDOC is visiting a variety of

## Obituary

**ARNETT D. LEWIS, JR.**  
Services for Mr. Arnett D. Lewis, Jr., 74, of Edgewood, New Mexico, are to be held Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at Guiding Light COGIC in Lexington, MS. Interment to immediately follow services at Greenlawn Cemetery in Lexington, MS. Mr. Lewis, long-time resident of Lexington, MS, passed away on Sunday, March 18, 2018 in New Mexico.



## LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**IN RE: ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE OF ELIJAH DENTON, DECEASED**  
**CAUSE NO. 17-0177**  
**ANITA RICE, PETITIONER**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Letters of Administration on the Estate of ELIJAH DENTON, Deceased, having been granted to me on the 22 day of February, 2018, Chancery Court of Holmes County, Mississippi; notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate shall have the same probated and registered by the Clerk of said Court within ninety (90) days from the date of first publication of this notice, and a failure to probate and register such claims within said ninety (90) days from the date of first publication of this notice will forever bar such claims.  
This the 20 day of March, 2018.  
ANITA RICE, ADMINISTRATRIX, OF THE ESTATE OF ELIJAH DENTON, DECEASED  
AISHAA, SANDERS, MSB # 104949  
EVERETT T. SANDERSS, MSB # 6443  
SANDERS LAW FIRM PLLC  
P. O. Box 565  
Natchez, MS 39121  
Telephone: (601) 445-5570  
Facsimile: (601) 445-0777  
ATTORNEYS FOR THE PETITIONER  
3-29;4-5,12b

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PUBLIC MEETING**  
The City of Durant was recently the recipient of a grant (1132-16-172-PF-01/1133-16-172-PF-01) from the Mississippi Development Authority, Community Services Division, through funding made available by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. A public meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 16, 2018 at City Hall, located at 253 West Mulberry Street in Durant, Mississippi. The purpose of this meeting is to provide citizens with information regarding progress of the activities undertaken through the CDBG Program and to receive citizen input concerning that progress.

The location for this hearing is an accessible facility. All comments are welcome and must be submitted in writing. If a translator is needed for non-English speaking persons, please contact the City at (662) 653-3221 at least 3 days prior to the meeting in an effort to accommodate this request.

The City of Durant does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admissions or access to or treatment or employment in its program or activities.  
3-29b

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DIVERT OR WITHDRAW FOR BENEFICIAL USE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
Notice is hereby given that on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, Holmes Community College, P.O. Box 369, Goodman, MS 39079 filed renewal application No. MS-GW-02338 for a permit to continue to divert or withdraw the public waters of the State of Mississippi for beneficial use from the Meridian-Upper Wilcox Aquifer, in the county of Holmes, for Institutional and Public Supply purposes, subject to existing rights, the following amount of water at the indicated location:  

PERMIT #	VOLUME	RATE	LOCATION
MS-GW-02338	.14 MG/D	300 GPM	NE, SE, S18, T13N, R4E

  
Any person, firm, association, or corporation, deeming that the granting of the above application will be truly detrimental to their rights to utilize the waters of said source, may protest in writing to the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi, ATTN: Chris Hawkins, PO Box 2309, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, setting forth all reasons why said application should not be approved. Letters of protest must be received within ten (10) days of this publication. If not protested, a permit will be issued on or after ten (10) days following publication date.  
If protested, the application will be taken for consideration by the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi in its offices at 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on or after, Tuesday, the 8th day of May, 2018, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard by the Permit Board.  
**OFFICE OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES**  
Chris Hawkins, P.E.  
Chief, Permitting, Certification, and Compliance Division  
3-29b

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LINDSEY HORTON, DECEASED**  
**CAUSE NO.: 17-0137**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Letters of Administration having been granted on the 26 day of March, 2018, by the Chancery Court of Holmes County, Mississippi, to the undersigned as Administrator of the Estate of Lindsey Horton, Deceased. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to the law within ninety (90) days from the first publication of the Notice or they will be forever barred.  
This the 26 day of March, 2018.  
/s/ Mae Horton  
**MAE HORTON, ADMINISTRATRIX**  
Prepared by:  
Bryant W. Clark, Esq.  
BRYANT CLARK LAW, PLLC  
Post Office Box 179  
Lexington, MS 39095  
Phone: (662)834-6133  
3-29;4-5,12b

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
CDE Storage, 109 E. Cedar Street, Durant, MS, will sell the contents of Unit #36 leased to Dewan Jackson, 14757, S. Jackson, Durant, MS, on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.  
3-29;4-5b  
Legal Notice for District Signage Project, Bid File #54:  
Holmes Community College will receive sealed bids for District Signage Project, Bid File 54 in the Purchasing Office of the Goodman Campus, 9216 Highway 14, Goodman, MS 39079 until 2:00 p.m. CST on April 24, 2018, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid specifications, drawings, and proposal forms may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or requested by phone at 662-472-9079. Also, official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814. Holmes Community College reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any and all informalities. All bids shall be in compliance with and subject to Sections 31-3-15 and 31-3-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as annotated and amended, and in all case law pertaining thereto.  
3-22,29b

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
CDE Storage, 109 E. Cedar Street, Durant, MS, will sell the contents of Unit #65 leased to Lee Wade, Sr., 1978 Chrch Street, Goodman, MS, on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.  
3-22,29b

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS MITCHELL LAND, DECEASED**  
**CAUSE NO. 18-028**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Letters of Testamentary having been granted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018, by the Chancery Clerk of Holmes County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Thomas Mitchell Land, deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having a claim against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of said Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred.  
This the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018.  
/s/ Betty J. Land  
BETTY J. LAND  
EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS MITCHELL LAND  
3-15,22,29b

**TOWN OF GOODMAN, MISSISSIPPI REZONING NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that application has been made to the Town of Goodman to change the zoning of a portion of the property owned by Robert Webb Wilson identified as parcel number 0430105100 and parcel number 0430105000 from R-2 (Medium Density Residential) to CBD (Central Business District). A public hearing will be held before said Town of Goodman at 5:30 p.m. on April 3, 2018, at the City Hall, Goodman, Mississippi, at which time and place all those wishing to be heard regarding the change in zoning should appear.  
Dated this 29th day of March, 2018.  
/s/ Latoyia Gordon  
City Clerk  
3-29b

businesses, including those in the hotel and restaurant industry, manufacturing, poultry processing, welding, heating and air conditioning, construction, electrical, retail, and the auto mechanic industry.

“We are grateful for the fast-food companies that have been very supportive in providing our returning citizens employment opportunities,” Riley said. “However, we are expanding our focus and reaching out to other employers in the state. Our goal is to secure long-term employment. We want to find out what skill set employees are looking for and match those of offenders with those employers.”

The agency’s pre-release program can be better tailored to meet those employment needs, Riley said. The department has expanded pre-release beyond the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) to South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) and Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF).

The Pre-release program is designed to not only teach the offenders cognitive thinking skills, employability, readjustment and social skills but also to provide job assistance via counseling,

## \*UM Unveils

(Continued from page 5.)  
“We have spent a lot of time thinking about what success looks like in a partnership like this, and the reality is that we cannot answer that without you,” Caldwell said. “We need to rely on you, the true experts in what matters most in this community to help us set the terms of engagement so that by working together we can co-create a vision that is far greater than anything we could accomplish separately.”

More information about the M Partner program is available at <http://mpartner.olemiss.edu/>.

referral, interviews, job development and follow-up.

“One challenge we have is those persons who have little to no job experience and getting them enrolled in a one of our vocational programs,” Riley said, “but we are committed to overcoming challenges like these.”

The agency has 37 vocational programs, including welding, automotive mechanic and automotive body repair, small engine repair, horticulture, and carpentry.



Sometimes the hunt is only a small part of a bigger story. While having meat in the freezer is nice, most of us are not in actual need of it but enjoy it as a luxury. It is good to have places like Hunters for the Hungry who find people who depend on a hunter’s harvest. Most of us just enjoy hunting because of everything that goes with it. From the camaraderie of friends to being in the outdoors, hunting is therapeutic in many ways for those who make it a part of their life. Again, that’s why the actual harvest is usually part of a bigger story.

One of those stories for me is the story of Hube and Poe. Hube is 81 and Poe is 78. They are the patriarchs of a group of bear hunters in North Carolina. They both have been hunting bears for years. I hesitate to say they have passed it on to their sons and others, because that would seem to suggest they no longer hunt. That would be far from the truth. During my visit with them in December, Hube was able to get close enough to pull the trigger on one and Poe was just as eager and ready if his opportunity came. The thrill of witnessing Hube’s harvest was the climax

try.  
“We have no additional money for new programs,” Commissioner Hall said. “Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to make sure that we are teaching offenders what they need in the programs we have. We also need to make sure that offenders are participating in these programs. I have sent the message loudly and clearly that the Mississippi Department of Corrections is committed to providing meaningful rehabilitation programs.”

for the nearly 20 individuals who were there. While Poe never saw a bear on this trip, he showed me the marks on his old Remington. There was one for every bear he had taken over past several decades. The carved marks lined both the top and bottom of the stock and forearm. The stories that are held within these two men deserve to be mined out by us younger ones. If we don’t they will be lost forever. The good thing about these stories will not be the hunt itself; they too will be part of their bigger story. Their stories will be about close calls and falls. About practical jokes. About friends and family who took their last hunt before they passed away. And about spiritual matters that were shared in the cabin, around a supper table. While Hube and Poe are Christians, I hesitate to say they are passing their Christian life on to their sons and others. That would seem to suggest they are no longer involved themselves. That would be far from the truth. In fact, they are the unchallenged leaders in this area as well. Just try to eat before saying the blessing and you’ll see what I’m talking about.

[gary@outdoortruths.org](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org)



It was Kick Butts Day all day at Holmes County Central High School on Wednesday, March, as part of A Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The nationally recognized campaign focuses on anti-tobacco use and promotes general overall health in teens. Students at the Lexington public high school heard from Mayor Robin McCrory, Supervisor James Young, Sheriff Willie March and guest speaker Lamarr Womble, school culture expert. Information was made available to students through speakers, presentations, exhibitors and displays about the health hazards of tobacco use. Sharon Nettles, project director with The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi for Madison, Yazoo and Holmes Counties, also was spoke to students.

(Photos by Matthew Breazeale)