

## Vince Dooley set to appear at Chamber banquet tonight

### Staff Reports

The “most successful coach in the University of Georgia history,” Vince Dooley, will be hosted by the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce as keynote speaker during the 29th annual Membership/Awards Banquet set tonight, April 5.

The chamber of commerce event will be held at the Carroll Cafeteria on the campus of Holmes Community Col-

lege in Goodman, 6 p.m.

A silent auction will also be held at the banquet from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For over 50 years, Vince Dooley has had an enduring impact on the University of Georgia, Southeastern Conference, and collegiate athletics across the country. Serving as head football coach at UGA from December, 1963, to January 1, 1989, and as Director of Athletics

from 1979-2004, he has been a man of great foresight in times of charting the future, stability in times of change, and vision in critical times that have shaped the path of college athletics.

Providing entertainment for the evening is native Mississippian and vocalist, Ora Reed.

Growing up in the red clay hills of Mississippi, graduating from Jackson State University, Reed has spent most of her recent career sharing her music throughout the

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## West landmark shot up Easter night, police investigating



## Hope reigns as farmers begin 2018 plantings

By Linda M. Breazeale  
MSU Extension Service

Rains may delay field work, but they don't dampen farmers' optimism for 2018.

Along with plantings that have already taken place, another sign of the new season is the release of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Prospective Plantings report. Released at the end of March every year, this report estimates planting acres for state and national crops.

Brian Williams, an agricultural economist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, said most of the crop markets are steady at year-ago levels.

“We are still looking at large supplies for most of our major crops, and demand has also been quite strong,” he said. “The one exception is cotton. Cotton markets are much better

than a year ago.”

Cotton...

The national cotton acreage is forecast to increase 858,000 acres to almost 13.5 million acres, but USDA projected a 50,000 acre decrease for Mississippi for a total 580,000 acres. Only three states are seeing lower acreage this year: Mississippi, Louisiana and Virginia.

“Cotton markets are faring quite well this year, so a decrease in the state's cotton acreage surprises me,” Williams said. “December cotton futures are trading close to 77 cents a pound while it was in the low 70s a year ago.”

MSU Extension cotton specialist Darrin Dodds said he expects 2018 to have the highest acreage since 2006.

“It would not surprise me to see 650,000-700,000 acres. We might have seen that amount

last year, but May 2017 was a challenging month for planting,” he said. “By the time conditions became more favorable, we were so deep into spring that growers weren't comfortable putting that seed in the ground.”

Because cotton prices have been respectable, Dodds said other commodities should not be eating into cotton acres until their prices improve.

“If the weather is right, some producers will start planting in the third week of April,” Dodds said. “More rain would push planting into the first week of May, which is when most cotton planting has occurred in the last five years.”

Soybeans...

USDA estimated a 10,000-acre increase in Mississippi's soybean acreage to bring the state to 2.2 million acres. The

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Mississippi State University Extension Service small grain specialist Erick Larson, right, oversees student workers Christian Singleton, near, and Nolan Stapleton as they pour corn into seed hoppers on March 28, 2018. They will plant the corn in research plots at the R.R. Foil Plant Science Research Center in Starkville, Mississippi.

(Photo by MSU Extension Service/Kevin Hudson)



The West Police Department is asking the public for help regarding damages that were done to the Heffner-McLellan Museum on Carrollton Road Sunday night, April 1. West Police Chief Demarcus Peoples reported that fifteen bullet holes outside the museum and seven inside were made into the local landmark. Peoples said he believes the damages were done with a high powered rifle but is still investigating. If anyone has any information on the incident they are asked call Chief Peoples at 662-967-2308. Callers do not have to give their name. (Courtesy Photos)

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**Thursday**  
Partly Cloudy  
71/54  
Precip. Chance  
0%



**Friday**  
P.M. Thunderstorms  
70/47  
Precip. Chance  
50%



**Saturday**  
Rain  
52/37  
Precip. Chance  
80%



**Sunday**  
Partly Cloudy  
70/55  
Precip. Chance  
20%



**Monday**  
A.M. Showers  
72/48  
Precip. Chance  
40%



**Tuesday**  
Mostly Sunny  
64/41  
Precip. Chance  
10%



**Wednesday**  
Mostly Sunny  
73/52  
Precip. Chance  
20%

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