

***Soon**
(Continued from page 1)
I couldn't sleep. Every day I learned more and more on premature birth, death and premature moms. I learned about what we were given, Karter and I, Surfactant, a steroid shot. I didn't know much about it because everything happened so fast...I didn't have time to research any of this."

Kisha elaborated on her and Jason's story on the March of Dimes website: "At 3:02 p.m., a 1.3 lb baby boy came out screaming at the top of his lungs. When I heard his cry, I knew he was a tough baby. That night I went to visit Karter in the NICU for the first time. It was heartbreaking that I could not hold him, because he was in an incubator fighting for his life. Karter was breathing through a tube, wires covered his tiny body, and he was surrounded by other premature or sick newborns. The beeps of the highly calibrated machines that kept them all alive were extremely loud, a sound I will never forget. Instead of crying, I prayed for my miracle baby to grow, to become stronger, and healthier everyday, so that he could come home and be with his parents. It would be three months before we'd be able to bring Karter home from the hospital, but we visited him everyday, sometimes twice a day for the next 105 days. Also, while Karter was in the NICU, I supplied him with my breast milk, because it was the best form of nutrients for him to receive.

Of course, we were completely unprepared for the months that followed his birth - getting used to the sight of his tiny body hooked up to IV lines; a feeding tube down his throat, being poked with needles, watching nurses weigh each soiled diaper; finding terms like "oxygen sats" (the saturation level of oxygen in the blood) and "RDS" (respiratory-distress syndrome) lodged in our conversation; scrubbing our hands and forearms for a full three minutes, five or so times a day, before being allowed to touch our new baby boy."

Nowadays Karter is as healthy as can be, hitting as of his developmental milestones.

"Karter is an adventurous two years-old," says Kisha. "He is perfectly healthy, happy, active, and weighs 31LBS and he is 3ft. tall. Karter enjoys talking, climbing, playing basketball, and being read to. Although the traumas of the NICU are long

New market manager to “quench” the county’s desert

By Matthew Breazeale
Area farmers and growers will now have to deal with a new face for the Lexington Farmers Market this season.

Algenia Adams of Ebenezer was tapped by the City of Lexington to fill the role of market manager for this season's farmers market and has worked 38 years at the Holmes County Extension Office as a nutrition educator/specialist.

Through a memorandum of understanding with The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, the city has been granted \$2,500 to retain Adams to organize and attract vendors to Lexington.

The MOU (memorandum of understanding) was signed by Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory and Sandra Shelston, the executive director of The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, on March 6.

No official date has been set yet for Lexington's Farmers Market to open due to erratic weather recently.

"I'm concerned about the cold weather and getting the crops in the ground," said McCrory. "It's going to delay when we open the market. Betsy Padgett with the extension service was saying about the only thing in the ground now is corn. The cold won't hurt the corn. Unfortunately when you have a market and a consumer base, you want to make it worth the while, to have that variety. That's why we're still working on our opening date."

Lexington's local farmers market fills a void in the area during the growing season.

Holmes County is notoriously known as a food desert, that it a geographic area where affordable and nutritious food is alleged to be hard to obtain, particularly for those without access to an automobile.

Other municipalities are seeing more on the need local farmers market can fill, especially in the Delta, according to McCrory.

"Some areas that are food des-

erts there might just be one grocery store in a community and people wanting to be able to get fresh fruit and vegetables where they are nutritionally and nutritively they are at their peak."

Adams, who came out of retirement to tackle the new role, says the location of Lexington's market is a draw with it being held inside the Multi-Purpose Complex, air-conditioned, which is more suitable to keeping produce fresh



ALGENIA ADAMS



Pictured above, McCrory (at left) and Adams review the memorandum of understanding at city hall on April 16, between the City of Lexington and The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi that is enabling the city to hire Adams to work as market manager for this season's farmers market in Lexington.

(Photos by Matthew Breazeale)

due to complications. Unfortunately, the numbers of preterm births are rising, up 36 percent since the early 1980s. Thankfully, with amazing advances in neonatal care and technology,

and sales high. Adams said she is delighted to serve as the face and point person of the Lexington market for the upcoming season and encourages vendors and growers to reach out to her. There are guidelines to participate in the market and be a vendor which Adams can explain.

Adams can be reached at 662-633-7643 to participate in the market, for vendor applications and for more information.

the chances that these babies will survive and thrive are rising too."

Kisha's \$5,000 fund-raising goal for the walk was at \$4,149 on Monday afternoon.

HCSD School Growth Award



Principal Charles Lacy (pictured at right) was presented the School Growth Award for 2017-2018 during the Holmes County School District's 14th Annual Excellence in Education Awards that was held on Thursday, April 19 at the Lexington Multi-Purpose Complex. Lacy was nominated by Holmes County Central High School. Presenting the awards was Holmes County Interim Superintendent Dr. Angel Meeks.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Goodman, MISSISSIPPI, WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, May 8, 2018, AT 5:00 P. M. IN THE GOODMAN TOWN HALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE TOWN OF GOODMAN'S APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING THROUGH THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITIES FACILITIES PROGRAM AND DISCUSS WHETHER AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT WOULD BE INVOLVED.

THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND, PARTICULARLY THOSE PERSONS DIRECTLY BENEFITTING FROM THE PROJECT.

CITY OF LEXINGTON 4TH ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Featuring Miss Antoinette Powell,
the 2018 Miss Black Universe
Local Live Music
Petting Zoo from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Car Show
Food
Seasoned Vendors
Children's Activities, Community Spirit

Vendor Registration:

Vendor spaces are on a first come, first serve basis. Spaces are 10ft. x 10ft. each. No electricity is provided. Cost is \$25.00 per space.
Set up on festival day starts at 7:00 a.m.

Applications and information are available at
Lexington City Hall, 112 Spring St., Lexington,
MS 662-834-1261

CONGRATULATIONS!



BRITNEY

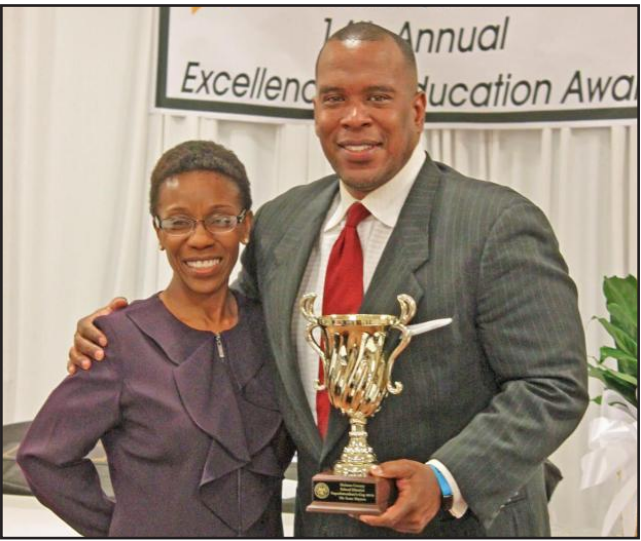


JASMINE

Brittney and Jasmine Russell are the proud daughters of Rita Russell. Brittney and Jasmine will be graduating from Jackson State University. Brittney will be receiving her Master's of Science degree on April 27, 2018, maintaining a 4.0 G.P.A. Jasmine will be receiving her Bachelor's of Science degree on April 28, 2018, maintaining a 3.7 G.P.A.



HCSD Superintendent's Cup



Issac Haynes (pictured at right) was awarded the Superintendent's Cup for 2017-2018 during the Holmes County School District's 14th Annual Excellence in Education Awards that was held on Thursday, April 19 at the Lexington Multi-Purpose Complex. Haynes is the assistant superintendent for the Holmes County School District. Presenting the awards was Holmes County Interim Superintendent Dr. Angel Meeks.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)