## HRR



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LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI

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## Sanders given two life without parole sentences plus 30 years

murder in an agreement that ne-Oliver. avoided the death penalty, Sanders stabbed to death religious orders.

worked as nurse practitio- day. ners in a medical clinic.

Judge Jannie Lewis gave the jumpsuit, Sanders stood at

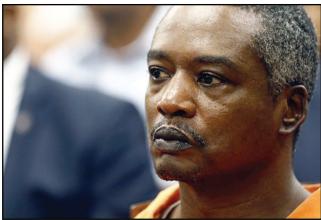
without parole sentences, before the judge. Lewis at A Mississippi man admit- plus 30 more years for bur- times had to ask him to speak ted Thursday, June 21, that glary and car theft, accepting he killed two Roman Catho- a recommendation from Dislic nuns, pleading guilty to trict Attorney Akillie Malo-

which was opposed by the Held and Merrill in the home women's families and their they shared in nearby Durant in 2016. He also pleaded Rodney Earl Sanders made guilty Thursday to burglarthe pleas to two counts of izing the house and stealmurder in state court in Lex- ing Held's car. Sanders was ington, blocks away from also indicted for raping both where Sisters Margaret women, but did not admit Held and Paula Merrill had guilt on those charges Thurs-

Shackled hand and foot in Holmes County Circuit a loosely fitting orange jail 48-year-old Sanders two life times with his arms crossed Rodney Sanders pictured

Sanders was a resident of Kosciusko, but had been temporarily staying in a shed

across the street from the sisters in Durant. Sanders told investigators he went through the back door of the sisters' home, uninvited. Sanders said Merrill saw him first before a struggle took place with both women, an investigator testified in 2016. Court filings indicate DNA (Continued on page 9.)



(AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

# **County horse exhibitors** to compete in Georgia

4-H horse exhibitors will week in Jackson. from all over the Southeast- for their efforts. ern United States gather to compete.)

This year our youth bested that hope for one to qualify.

#### Three did!! And, two will be CORRECTION:

It was reported in last week's edition of the Herald in the story "Prosecutor: Mississippi man to plead guilty in nuns death," that Sanders' hearing was set in Belzoni. The hearing was in Lexington.

#### Early **Deadlines:**

observance of the Fourth of July Holiday, the Holmes County Herald will be closed Wednesday, July 4. Deadline for Calendar of Events and legals is June 28 by 5 p.m. The advertising deadline is June 29 by 12 p.m.

going. But, that was not all Holmes Co. Ext./4-H Agent the success that our youth It is a hope each year that accomplished at the State one of the Holmes County Championships held last

be successful enough at the On Thursday, Jay Jay Mc-State 4-H Horse Champion- Caskill and Marquail Primships in Jackson to qualify ers, Jr. accumulated the most for the bigger stage in Perry, points in the Goat Tying and Georgia. (That event being Roping Events to earn Sethe Southeastern 4-H Horse nior and Junior High Point Regionals where 4-H kids trophy buckles, respectively,

Marquail started the day with fifteenth in Goat Tying, but later placed second in Breakaway Roping and partnering with Jay Jay scoring another 2nd place in Dally Team Roping. Jay Jay took 7th in Goat Tying, 2nd in Calf Roping, 1st in Breakaway Roping and 2nd in Dally Team Roping partnering with Marquail. It was quite fitting that these two

partners in practice and contest stood shoulder to shoulder accepting their buckles. Sinatra Clayton placed first in Jr. Breakaway Roping with a time of 10.666 seconds qualifying him to advance to Regionals with the second fastest time to Jay Jay's 5.117 seconds. Olivia Howell placed 10th in the Ranch Sorting class while Tredell Meeks and Anthony Meeks partnered to take 7th. Emma Cotton placed 6th in Ranch Trail and Ranch Riding and 9th in Ranch Ground Handling.

(Continued on page 3.)



Holmes County 4-H Horse team carries their momentum into State 4-H Horse Cham- Oregon Memorial Church off of MS Highway 12 near pionships in Jackson this past week, Pictured above are (from left): Semaja Clayton; Lexington held Vacation Bible School for area youth the Sinatra Clayton, 1st place Jr. Breakaway Roping Champion & Regional Qualifier; Jay week of June 17. The fun included crafts, swimming and Jay McCaskill, High Point Cattle & Goat Division Champion & Regional Qualifier; lots of food. Pictured above, children pile on the jungle and Tredell Meeks- 1st place Sr. Pole Bending & Regional Qualilfier. Not pictured is gym swing one day during play time. See more photos Marquail Primers, Jr. High Point Cattle & Goat Division Champion.

(Photo by Betsy Padgett)

## **HCCSD: Board of Ed,** new supe and parents want best for Durant's 9-12 students

**HC Consolidated School District** 

the best interest of children," ommendation to reverse the assured James L. Henderson, previous Board's decision. Ed.D., new superintendent The consolidation was esfor the newly formed Hol- tablished by the Mississippi mes County Consolidated Department of Education. School District as he met with concerned Durant par- to you, ladies and gentleents Saturday, June 16.

school administrator.

community meeting to see should stand. whether he would recommend a reversal of the deci- gathered from the Mississipsion made by the previous pi Department of Education School Board, prior-to-his- website, your students (ninth coming, to transfer Durant through twelfth grade) were High School's (DHS) 98 only receiving a basic educastudents to Holmes Coun-tion," he said. "There were ty Central High School few Advanced Placement (HCCHS) in Lexington.

Henderson told the par- teachers had more than one ents that he would have, no

doubt, made the same recommendation. Therefore, "I will always do what's in he will not be making a rec-

"I know this is personal men, and I understand your Henderson told the par- concerns and uncertainties,' ents at Durant High School Henderson stressed as he that he is a "Students-First" presented an informative PowerPoint presentation as The parents requested the to why the approved transfer

> "According to the data I (AP) courses. And, several

(Continued on page 3.)

# st's a jungle



from the event in this week's edition on page 6.

(Photo by Erica Wentworth)

Single Copy





**Thursday** Partly Cloudy 94/75 Precip. Chance

**Friday** P.M. T'Storms

93/74

Precip. Chance

Saturday A.M. T'Storms 93/74 Precip. Chance 80%





20%

Partly Cloudy 92/73 Precip. Chance



**Tuesday** P.M. T'Storms 92/73 Precip. Chance Precip. Chance

Wednesday Scattered T'Storms 92/73

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