

Young horsemen win in Southeastern 4-H Regional Show



Sinatra Clayton (at left) and Tredell Meeks represented Holmes County and Mississippi at the 4-H Southeastern Regional Horse Show in Perry, Georgia, last week. Sinatra made history for Holmes County 4-H Horse winning the Breakaway Roping event and Tredell followed in 3rd place. (Photo submitted)

**By Betsy Padgett
Holmes Co. Ext./4-H Agent**
Two Holmes 4-H'ers earned regional spots with their talent and skills winning at the MS State 4-H Horse Championships earlier in July to ride on the "big stage" in Perry, Georgia, in the 4-H Southeastern Region Horse Show.

On Friday, August 3, Sinatra Clayton made Holmes County 4-H history winning the Breakaway Roping event with his buddy, Tredell Meeks taking 3rd. Only in the past 3 years have Holmes 4-H'ers again become "regulars" at this huge show. Sinatra won with a time of 10.42 seconds besting his previous best time (at the state show) of 10.66. His mom, Kimberly Clayton stated that "at first,

it blew his mind to realize that he had really WON the event." When asked about the response he got from the crowd – she stated that it was awesome.

Going in to the arena, Sinatra said that he was really nervous, but a friend sent him a text of a song that included the phrase "encourage yourself." We can only surmise that he did, and it suppressed his anxiety.

Tredell, also, competed successfully in the Stake Race – placing 7th out of 101 entries. Kimberly, also, reported that Tredell did super in the Poles but knocked over 3 – "which were really easy to bump over" at this show. Tredell had shown in Perry last year, blazing the way for this "more to

come." For all practical purposes this show was a "national" stage for these youth. Not only did they perform in the arena to the highest level of skill and succeed, but are also highly regarded among the 4-H'ers of their Mississippi horse group. Kudo's to these guys!!!!

It is also noteworthy that just as soon as Sinatra won the event the Mississippi 4-H Livestock Specialist (who was at the show) texted to let me know he'd won – he was excited as well. His text, in fact, beat Kimberly's call to me. I only hope that WE get a chance to go again next year.

*National Night

(Continued from page 1.)
Excel By 5.

City and county officials provided hamburgers and hotdogs to about 500 people. Supervisor James Young, Alderman Bo Patterson and the city of Durant provided food supplies.

The literacy theme for this year's party was Paw Patrol Helping Others. Excel By 5 distributed Paw Patrol coloring books and Disney play kits, plus school supplies for preschool, kindergarten, and first grade. The mission of Excel By 5 is to help parents and educators prepare children for kindergarten so that they have a foundation for life-long learning and educational success.

Families First, funded by Miss. Dept. of Human Services, has been working in Durant, partnering with Excel by 5, the city board and local educators in a program of support services.

Many individuals donated school supplies and the vendors donated educational materials.

Health care vendors were Magnolia Health Care, Tobacco Free Mississippi,

Mallory Community Health Center, Life Help Service and Delta Health Alliance Education booths included Jackson State Alumni, Excel By 5, Durant Elementary School, Families First, Williams-Sullivan Elementary School, and CDI Head Start. Other participants and supporters were Durant Mayor's Youth Council, under the direction of Cardell Wright, Paige Bailey from the Mississippi Fire Marshal, the Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Argie Peters Logan Stem Academy, Durant Public Library, Holmes County Youth Football, Genesis Day Care, North Central Planning and Development District WIOA Youth Program, Holmes County Extension Service, and Durant Youth Football Team.

During the school year Families First and Durant Excel By 5 is planning to work with community service partners and local schools on several ongoing family literacy projects. Information booths will be provided at the upcoming Durant Octoberfest and literacy gifts will be distributed at Christmas holidays and end of school term.

"NOTICE OF A PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF LEXINGTON"

The City of Lexington will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for the fiscal year 2019 on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, 5:30 p.m., at the City Hall located at 112 Spring Street, Lexington, MS.

The City of Lexington is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$2,253,252. \$353,100, or, 15.67% of such revenue is obtained through Ad Valorem Taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$2,250,000. Of that amount, 15.67%, or, \$353,100 is to be financed through a total Ad Valorem Tax Levy.

The decision to not increase the Ad Valorem Tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2019 above the current fiscal year's Ad Valorem Tax millage rate means you will not pay more in Ad Valorem Taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment, rental and real property, unless the assessed value of your property has increased for the fiscal year 2018.

Any citizen of the City of Lexington is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for the fiscal year 2019 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.



Supervisor James Young, at right, and his cooking team welcomed some very special customers to the Food Court in the breezeway of the historic Durant Depot at the Durant National Night Out and Back To School Party on August 7. (Photo submitted)



For Durant National Night Out and Back To School Party Durant Excel By 5 provided book bags with school supplies and literacy gifts for preschool, kindergarten, and first grade. Paige Bailey of the Miss. Fire Marshal's office shared the booth, and the children enjoyed her gifts of firemen's hats, safety arm bands, and fire prevention literature. (Photo submitted)