by James Cummins **Executive Director** of Wildlife Mississippi

citement of hunting, but also rection. to enjoy the beauty of Mis-

local law enforcement.

have nine grandchildren.

It's now that time of year our ability to correct such that we take to the fields, misuse through education woodlands, and waters not and example. Hunter educaonly to experience the ex- tion is a step in the right di-

Mississippi's hunter edusissippi's outdoors. The in- cation programs promote by the Mississippi Legislacreasing criticism of today's responsible, ethical conduct, hunting problems points emphasize the importance of directly at the misuse of the wildlife management, and privilege of hunting. Tomor- encourage the safe handling row's privileges may rely on of firearms and ammunition.

Q and A with: Lexington

Police Chief Robert Kirklin, Sr.

Students of hunter education courses develop a better understanding of their responsibilities to the wildlife resource, the landowner, other hunters, and themselves. In addition, statistics prove that the number of hunting accidents is significantly lower for individuals who have completed a hunter education course.

In 1988, a law was passed ture that requires all persons born on or after January 1, 1972, to complete a hunter education course prior to purchasing a hunting license.

A course in hunter education provides one with many facts about hunting such as hunter ethics and responsibility, the history of firearms, firearms handling and safety, accident prevention, ammunition safety, ballistic and range, hypothermia, marksmanship, safe shooting zones, water safety, and wildlife identification. Hunter education also teaches the importance of wildlife management and conservation, as well as game care, spe-

cialty hunting (muzzle loading, bow hunting, and handguns), first aid, and survival.

sure the safety of all hunters; follow an unwritten code of based on respect for wildlife, the land we live on, and themselves.

a bad public image of all hunters. There are many things a responsible hunter

Facebook and Twitter.

⇒Bob Oats

⇒Wildlife Mix

⇒Buck Booster

⇒Corn Chops

can do to improve their image. Hunters should always leave fences and gates as Written laws cannot en- they found them. When livestock is allowed to get loose, therefore, each hunter should the landowner ends up doing additional work. Thoughtethics. Hunters' codes are less use of vehicles often damages fields and roads. A good sportsman would nevothers' rights, as well as for er leave litter behind. Also, never practice your aim by Irresponsible hunters give shooting bottles, insulators, or road signs. These actions cause damage and debris that other people have to correct or pay for. Always be respectful and try to leave conditions better than you found

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, and road conditions, visit restore and enhance fish, wildlife GoMDOT.com, or like and and plant resources throughout follow @MississippiDOT on Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.

⇒13-13-13

⇒Rye Grass

⇒ Rice Bran

⇒Wheat

Political signs illegal along state highways

elers begin to see a campaign signs sprout up along roadways throughout the state. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) reminds candidates and supporters that it is illegal to place signs in the right-ofway of state highways.

A clear right-of-way helps maintain the safety of the traveling public and highway workers. Illegally placed signs could limit visibility. Signs with steel or wooden posts could cause injuries if a motorist leaves the road-

The width of highway right-of-way varies by loof driving lanes. The right-

MDOT workers will remove any signs illegally placed in highway right-ofway. The signs will be kept for two weeks at a local MDOT maintenance facility before being discarded. Candidates can retrieve the signs from MDOT without

Removal of illegal campaign signs during and after elections contributes to the \$3 million annual cost to

payers money and takes skilled highway workers away from other projects," McGrath said. "If election litter can be deployed and disposed of correctly, the savings could be put toward maintaining our highway system."

Candidates and supporthighways, see Section 63-3-317 of the Mississippi Code

Every election cycle, trav- of 1972 Annotated. For updates on projects

"Political signs should only be placed in legal areas so the safety of motorists and roadside workers is not put in jeopardy," said Melinda McGrath, P.E., MDOT executive director. "It is important to know the laws regarding campaign sign placement because it can become a problem before and after an election."

cation and can extend over 300 feet from the centerline of-way is typically larger at intersections where larger sight lines are needed.

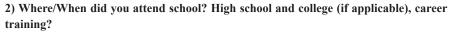
any penalty.

keep highways clear of litter. "Litter removal costs tax-

ers can contact their local MDOT maintenance office for more information about rights-of-way along particular stretches of highway. To review laws and regulations governing signs on state

The Holmes County Herald will feature a profile every other week of the county's acting police chiefs in each municipality. A questionnaire was sent to all acting chiefs and sheriff on August 10. Those who responded will be featured here in efforts to support local law enforcement and familiarize readers with 1) Tell us a little about your family, spouse, children, parents, their careers, brothers and sisters (if any/if applicable)? I am the 7 of 10 children, which includes 5 brothers: Samuel Kirklin, Leonard Kirklin, and Benjamin Kirklin of Lexington; Retired LTC US Army Virgil Kirklin of Wis-

Chief Robert Kirklin, Sr. Center, and we are the parents of 7 children-Stephanie, Shei-



I attended Lexington Elementary School from 1979-1982; Lexington Attendance Center (former J.J. McClain High School and currently Holmes County Central High School) from 1983-1986. I was a member of the graduating class of 1986, which was the first class to graduate under the newly named J.J. McClain High School. I attended Coahoma Junior College from 1986-1988 in which my first major was in Agriculture. I changed my major to Criminal Justice shortly after. I attended the MS Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy in Pearl in 1990 where I graduated and received my certification in law enforcement. I served as a patrolman and as Chief of Police in the Itta Bena, West, and Lexington.

3) What influenced you in pursuing a career in law enforcement? Law enforcement wasn't my first career choice. I have to give some of the credit to Larry Edwards, a former coworker who helped me get my first job in law enforcement in the Pickens. After my initial exposure in this field, I felt a need to provide services to the communities I served; to give back to the community I grew up in.

4) What areas of law enforcement do you enjoy the most?

consin; and Brigadier Gen, Ronald Kirklin US Army; and 4

sisters: Augustine Winstead, Christine and LaShunka Kirklin

of Lexington and Carrie Kirklin-Young of Flora. My mother,

Austry Kirklin, was very active in the Civil Rights Movement

of Holmes County during the 1960's, and my father was a

truck driver and construction worker. I am married to Kath-

erine McCray-Kirklin, a LPN at Mallory Community Health

la, Robert Jr., Yasmine, Devlin, Arianna, and Kevin. We also

I enjoy educating people about the current laws so that aren't misinformed regarding their rights as citizens. I especially enjoy educating young people about making the right choices in life such as avoiding drugs, violence, and any crime-related activities which may affect the outcome of their future. I try to encourage them to surround themselves with others who will help ensure that they make a positive impact in their communities.

5) Are there proven tactics and best practices you prefer? Yes. Education, community policing, neighborhood watch programs are very effective in crime prevention.

6) What brought you to serving in your town (county-sheriff)?

For 14+ years, I have provided services as a law enforcement officer at several out of town police departments-Itta Bena, Indianola, and Belzoni. I felt that it was time to provide this service in my own city/county.

7) What are some challenging areas working in law enforcement? The challenges are the same that we all face in our communities as a whole- mental illness, education, unemployment, drug abuse/addiction to name a few.

8) What are rewarding aspects working in law enforcement?

Knowing that we have exhausted every resource possible to solve crimes that have been committed; being able to continually educate the public regarding the law; being able to help a stranded motorist, being able to serve the community.

9) How has technology supplemented/strengthened law enforcement? How has it hindered/hurt law enforcement?

Advances in technology aid in helping law enforcement officers solve crimes. Radar detectors as well as cell phones hurt in that these things allow a person(s) in the process of committing a crime to communicate the location of police officers in order to deter the officers to certain locations so that the criminal can successfully carry out their criminal activities. An example of this is giving false information to law enforcement in reference to the location of a crime in order to commit a crime in another location.

10) What do you see as some of the challenges the department and the city (countysheriff) faces? Economic growth and development, unemployment, and finances. There are not enough industries attracted to this area.

11) How do enjoy free time outside of work? I enjoy spending time with family, weight lifting, mowing lawns and listening to music. 12) What was your first job? My first job was working through the summer job program

during my 10th grade year in high school with former Supervisor Howard Taft Bailey-Beat 1. 13) What is the best advice someone has ever given you? If you're going to do something,

do it right. Follow our mind, not your heart. Stick to "Business is business."

14) What is your favorite book? The Bible.

15) What is your dream vacation? My career in law enforcement spans 29+ years. My dream vacation will be having the ability to actually take one since I haven't gone on a real vacation in about 16 years. So, what is my dream vacation, you ask? RETIREMENT! I'm looking forward to that.



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