



## Texting & Driving

Today I am on my soapbox and I am preaching. I cannot count the times this past week that I was traveling to and from work that I encountered drivers who weren't paying attention to the road and were texting and driving. One was a commercial truck and I would love to mention the name of the business, but hopefully I can catch the number of that "How Am I Driving?" number on the back of the truck. I will call and let the company know that you aren't doing so well.

There is no point in giving a bunch of statistics about the accidents and deaths due to texting and driving. Everyone knows what they are and that they are out there for everyone to hear.

I have never understood what is so important that you can't wait or at least pull over to answer a text that you receive. On the way to school every morning, Steve gets school related text messages all the time. I read them to him and answer as he instructs me to.

It isn't only what you might do to yourself, but the lives of others are also at stake. Don't be so busy that you not only disregard your safety, but the safety of others.

I suppose today's article could be a public service announcement, but it is a matter that is weighing heavily

on my heart. It is a problem that only seems to be increasing. As adults, we also need to set a good example for our children and let them know that texting and driving is not acceptable.

If this article only makes an impression on one reader, I will consider it a blessing. I hope you will give today's recipes a try. Thanks for reading.

### ARTICHOKE CHICKEN

1 (15 oz.) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped  
¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese  
¾ cup mayonnaise  
1 pinch garlic salt and pepper  
4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix artichoke hearts, cheese, mayonnaise, salt and pepper. Place chicken breasts in a greased baking dish and cover evenly with artichoke mixture. Bake, uncovered, for 30 – 45 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink in center and juices run clear.

### CHICKEN CHILI

2 Tbsp. butter  
2 Tbsp. flour  
3 ½ cups chicken broth  
1 cup half and half  
1 rotisserie chicken, skin removed and meat pulled off  
boned and chopped  
1 lb. bacon, cooked and chopped

2 (15oz.) cans white kidney beans, rinsed and drained  
3 jalapenos, seeds removed and diced  
2 Tbsp. dried minced onion flakes  
¼ tsp. garlic powder  
2 tsp. cumin  
1 tsp. chili powder  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. pepper

1 (8 oz.) block cream cheese  
In a Dutch oven melt butter and stir in flour; cook for 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in chicken broth and half and half. Bring to a boil and cook for bout 2 minutes or until thickened. Add remaining ingredients and cook for an additional 20 minutes; stirring occasionally.

*\*Lee Ann Fleming is a Holmes County native, food columnist and has garnered fame for her recipes featured in the film, **The Help**. Fleming can be reached at [lafkitchen@hughes.net](mailto:lafkitchen@hughes.net).*

## \*Funds

(Continued from page 1.) the one billion dollars, or \$750M, has been designated to the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund to six Gulf counties. The remaining 25%, or \$250M, is designated to State BP Settlement Fund for special projects in remaining 57 counties.

Nineteen counties are not receiving any designated funding for special projects. One hundred twenty-seven special projects statewide have approved funding totaling \$103M administered through the Transportation Infrastructure Improvements Fund established in House Bill 1 MS Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2018; with funding provided through

# Lexington alderwoman awarded 3rd certification by Mississippi Municipal League

### Press Release

Lexington Alderwoman-at-Large Clemetene Cooper has completed the Professional Development Level of the Certified Municipal Official (CMO) program from the Mississippi Municipal League (MML).

The MML's CMO program has three certification levels: Basic, which requires 60 hours of training focused on the basics of municipal organization, law, finance and land use; Advanced, which requires an additional 40 hours of training in community and economic development; and Professional Development, which requires another 40 hours of course work encouraging the improvement of skills such as public speaking, writing and interpersonal communications. Officials who earn the Professional Development Level must have first completed the Basic and Advanced Levels of the program.

MML Executive Director Shari T. Veazey stated, "The Professional Development



Pictured above (from left) Clementene Cooper is awarded her certification by Les Childress, the 2017-2018 president of MML and the mayor of Flora. (Photo submitted)

Level of the CMO program gives our municipal leaders the opportunity to focus on personal growth and improvement in leadership skills. Those who have completed all three levels of the CMO program have made a strong commitment to self-improvement and, as a result, will be more effective municipal leaders."

Established in 1931, MML

represents 291 city, town and village governments in Mississippi. The mission of the MML is helping cities and towns excel through training, lobbying at the state and federal level, and providing resources and networking opportunities with state, federal and private entities. For more information about the Mississippi Municipal League, visit [www.mmlonline.com](http://www.mmlonline.com).

\$50M in gaming revenue bonds and \$52.8M from the Budget Contingency Fund.

Under SB No. 2002, the town of West will receive \$500,000 for "repairs, resurfacing and other improvements to streets." The county will receive \$300,000 for "repairs, resurfacing and improvements to Emory Road beginning at Highway 51 intersection and running west to I-55."

Projects proposed in the awarded Delta counties, total only \$20,575,000, or 8.23%, of the \$250M in BP funds.

Delta counties not included in funded projects are: Coahoma, Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Talla-

hatchie and Tunica.

Delta Council transportation leaders expressed their appreciation to state officials for recently enacted measures in a Special Session that will help to meet Mississippi's transportation challenges.

"We applaud the leadership of Governor Phil Bryant, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, Speaker Philip Gunn, and all of our legislators for enacting road legislation that helps us move closer to meeting the needs of our infrastructure funding challenges in

Mississippi," said Walton Gresham of Indianola, a businessman who serves as chairman of the regional development organization's Transportation Committee. "Delta Council's policy continues to emphasize that we feel the fairest mechanism for raising the necessary funds to build and maintain a long-range road program is through additional revenue from the sale of fuel at the pump (user fee), but we feel that the recent actions are certainly a positive step forward."

## Central Holmes 2018-2019 Pee-Wee Cheerleaders



Pictured above are (from left), row 1: Mary Hayden Hathcock, Heidi Grace Hudson, Pacey Ingram, Ally Kyzar, and Lydia Killebrew; Row 2: Hallie Francher, Zoey Jones, Allie McBride, Claire Tate, Chloe Word and Emma Steen; Row 3: Ryleigh Scott, Katelyn Weatherby, Anna Duke, Daynie Parish, Kate Riley, Hattie Melton and Susie Lane Pritchard. (Photo submitted)

### Bridal Registry

Stephanie Gauthier  
Matthew Kelly  
September 29

Cassie Cothran  
Jonathan McClellan  
November 17

## Peoples Drug Store

Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

## Save the Date!

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Friday, October 5  
& Saturday, October 6**

**Jewelry, Christmas,  
Home Decor and more!**

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