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ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 61 - NUMBER 12

City improvements, other projects highlighted during Durant mayor’s first State of the City address

By Matthew Breazeale

In the first State of the City address for Durant Mayor Henry Robinson, a myriad of town projects and developments were announced during the March 14 event.

Durant citizens and elected officials from both Durant and Holmes County gathered at the newly opened senior citizen center on the corner of Depot and Madison, to hear updates from Robinson about ongoing and new town efforts.

Wanting to curb misinformation being spread throughout the Durant community about city government activities and following up on his 2017 mayoral campaign promise of “moving Durant forward,” were reasons Robinson cited for the address.

In referring to the April 30, 2017 tornados that struck Durant, “Tons of debris were removed at a cost of \$2,042,980.26,” said Robinson. “As of this date, we are still working with MEMA and FEMA to receive our 80% reimbursement to close out this project and I can say we are getting closer and closer to having this first

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Durant Police continue hunt for suspect in jewelry theft

Durant Police are continuing in their investigation of thousands of dollars in jewelry stolen from Ward’s Jewelry on Depot Street over two separate days. David Hightower (pictured at right) is wanted in the thefts of jewelry from the local retailer that occurred on March 7 and March 12, all according to Durant Police Chief Jerry Kelly. “We believe the suspect to still be in the Durant area,” said Kelly. “We do have some leads we’re

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41 candidates seeking election in county races

Staff Reports

Friday, March 1 was the final day for candidates to qualify to seek office in the 2019 elections. August 6 is the date for the Democratic and Republican primary elections. November 5 is the date for the General Election. County-wide office seekers include the following (unofficial list) who are running as Democrats unless otherwise noted as (Ind.) for Independent candidates:

For **Supervisor District One** - Henry Anderson, Leonard “Hamp” Hampton, John Mark O’Neal, Larry Darnell Boyd, Jr., Cleotha Dixon and Steve McClellan; for **Supervisor District Two** - James Young; for **Supervisor District Three** - William Primer, Jr., Edward “Ed” Lewis (Ind.) and Debra A. Mabry; for **Supervisor District Four** - Joe Willie March, Leroy Johnson, Zachary “Zack” Killebrew (Ind.), Isaac Tyrone Sly Lindsey, Robert Payne Scott, Luther Wade, Sr., and James

(Continued on page 2.)

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(Continued on page 2.)

Making a space for education

This isn’t your grandpa’s library

By Matthew Breazeale

In our current digital age much rhetoric has been discussed about certain “antiquated” institutions such as newspapers, radio and libraries.

The word is that they are no longer relevant in a world where smart phones are the apex of access.

Just like in the natural world, life adapts and finds a way to endure. The McMorrough Library on the campus of Holmes Community College in Goodman has done just that.

The library has embraced a constructivist/constructionist movement where DIY meets education. Enter the Makerspace. Defined as making available educational engagements that turns knowledge into actions. Makerspace is an educational movement and a physical space.

The former periodicals room has been fitted to enhance the value of a modern-day book depot. The space houses a 3D printer, a zSpace virtual reality station, robotics kits, button maker, T-shirt press, vinyl plotter and aerial racing drones.

HCC Director of Library Services Jim Thompson shared the vision for amplifying hands on learning at the college library.

After verbal surveys/assessments with students on how to reuse the space, gamification, the use of games in education, and with the help of an endowment to the library along with 180 student signatures from a petition, the 3D printer heralded in the change.

“Some of these students, when they graduate are going to be working with 3D printing technology,” said Thompson, “So we wanted them to have a taste of it. That way they can tinker, build and build up that self-efficacy that’s very important for student retention.”

3D printers are an up and coming technology where a material is joined or solidified under computer control to create a three-dimensional object. Rolls of colored plastic line are stacked on shelves in the Makerspace where students can choose the color of their creation.

“The most important part is the programming aspect,” Thompson continued, “It’s not just about having the space but utilizing it for workshops. Our most popular workshop we did was called ‘The Chemistry of Cooking.’ What we did was talk about the chemistry behind the dough that goes into a pizza, fermentation of the cheese, then we would make the pizza. Soon a lot of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) instructors saw a way to bring their lab classes, their students in. Even our biology instructor, we presented her with a 3D animal cell and she fell immediately in love with it. She told us, ‘You know, this thing would have cost me around

(Continued on page 7.)



Sarah Clay (at left), head librarian of the McMorrough Library on the Goodman campus of Holmes Community College, and Jim Thompson, director of library services for Holmes Community College, stand at the entrance to the Makerspace located inside the former periodicals room. The space houses a 3D printer, a zSpace virtual reality station, robotics kits, button maker, T-shirt press, vinyl plotter and aerial racing drones.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

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Thursday  
Sunny  
65/39  
Precip. Chance 10%

Friday  
Sunny  
68/42  
Precip. Chance 10%

Saturday  
Mostly Cloudy  
71/48  
Precip. Chance 10%

Sunday  
Cloudy  
71/58  
Precip. Chance 10%

Monday  
Scattered T'Storms  
73/53  
Precip. Chance 60%

Tuesday  
Mostly Cloudy  
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Precip. Chance 20%

Wednesday  
Sunny  
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Precip. Chance 0%

How to reach us

PHONE • 834-1151  
FAX • 834-1074  
EMAIL  
hcherald@gmail.com