

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

It's hard to find a better month for hunting and fishing than April. With the fish biting and the turkeys gobbling, I find myself in a fevered pitch trying to fit it all in. If I could just get my grass to stop growing until June, then I'd be fine. But there's also the garage and the other outside maintenance that is calling my name as well. Since most bass fisherman love throwing spinner baits, they are in lake heaven right now. There's nothing like feeling the sudden stop of moving bait. And there's nothing like seeing that largemouth trying to spit out what seemed so appetizing just a few seconds before. For the land lover, the turkeys are in high gear. And it should become a little easier to find even more willing gobblers in the next couple of weeks. All in all, I'd give this spring an A+, so far. What I really enjoy is tying both of these pastimes together. I like to go fishing with my hunting gear stored readily in my boat. Then, as I cast, I listen and occasionally call. There have been a few times I've had to make a quick jolt to the bank in order to set up on a fast moving tom. The only thing that could make that trip any better would be to stumble upon some Hickory Chicken mushrooms on the way back to the boat, after I've killed a turkey. I would definitely consider that a day that was

ordained and orchestrated by God.

In fact, every day creation is ordained and orchestrated by God. It has a purpose and plan. It is on God's schedule. The turkeys will lay their eggs on God's timetable. The fish will spawn, and the doe will give birth to its fawn on that same timetable. The tree and plant life also work in unison with those who need them most. They will provide much needed food and cover for the new families that are "moving in." Yes, it's all of God, and it's designed to point an undeniable finger back toward His existence and power. You and I, then, are to respond to those attributes by trusting that He also has a purpose for us and that He will fully provide all along the way. The Scriptures put it this way. Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

Yes, all of the signs tell us that God is good at sustaining that which He has created. He will especially do that for His most special creation...us.

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*West News

(Continued from page 8.) sized colored stones, rocks and helped us all make a bee watering dish. After refreshments, the first order of business was the people who are on the nomination committee: Inez Dickerson and Leca Dew. They will be asking for people to fill the officers positions from the coming year. Other new business was discussion of the upcoming West School Reunion to be held May 4 at the West Grammar School. Jean and Suzanne are working on some ideas for the menu. This is a fund-raising project for the club and anyone who attended school is welcome. If anyone wishes to make a reservation by April 26, please get in touch with Mrs. Ruth Aldridge. If you cannot come but wish to make a donation to help with the upkeep of the building, you may do so by contacting Ruth Aldridge at P. O. Box 401, West, MS 39192 or calling 662-967-0021.

Our next order of business was updating information from Bill and Inez on the acquisition of the monument from East Holmes Academy here in West. This year at the West School Reunion Mr. Jerry Tate will be memorializing Mr. Horace Bouchillon, *The Collect* was then read and meeting adjourned.

The Certified Local Government meeting, will meet Monday, April 8 at 8:30 a.m. at the West City Hall.

\$2M for private school tuition survives last-ditch challenge

Associated Press

A provision to increase funding by \$2 million for Mississippi students with special education needs to attend private schools survived despite a last-ditch attempt to block it by opponents who claimed the move was sneaky and underhanded.

The controversy dominated the last day of the 2019 legislative session Friday. House members blocked the bill from advancing twice before enough members changed their votes to let it move forward. Republican Governor Phil Bryant promises to sign the bill.

Opponents said including the \$2 million in a special project list in Senate Bill 3049 was a trick pulled by Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and senators after representatives were assured funding wouldn't be increased over the current \$3 million.

The outrage was hottest in the House, where members had been assured on earlier bills that no such language was present.

Rep. Jay Hughes, an Oxford Democrat running for lieutenant governor, told House members that allowing the money to go through meant "it's OK to tell all working people in this state that you don't have a single penny for any more raises but you have \$2 million in discretionary funds that you

can just stick in somewhere for a special donor."

House Speaker Philip Gunn met with Republicans on Thursday after the \$2 million became general knowledge and said the House Republican caucus voted not to overturn the deal. However, at times Friday, more than a dozen Republicans voted against the money.

"We need to listen to the people back home instead of letting Tate Reeves stick it to us," said retiring Rep. Margaret Rogers, a New Albany Republican who opposed the measure.

More Republicans lined up with Gunn on each vote though, facing pressure to reverse themselves so the session could end.

Reeves and others noted the list of projects was handed out before votes in both chambers, and that it's not their fault opponents didn't notice and question it.

"It was a handout sitting on our desks," Senate Finance Committee Chairman Joey Fillingane, a Sumrall Republican, said Friday. "If you read it instead of chunking it in the trash, you knew what was in it."

Supporters sought more money, saying parents who want to use the program have been unable to because there wasn't enough money.

"This \$2 million is going to eliminate the current

waitlist in the Education Scholarship Accounts and that's important," Reeves said, adding that it would give some children a chance at a better education.

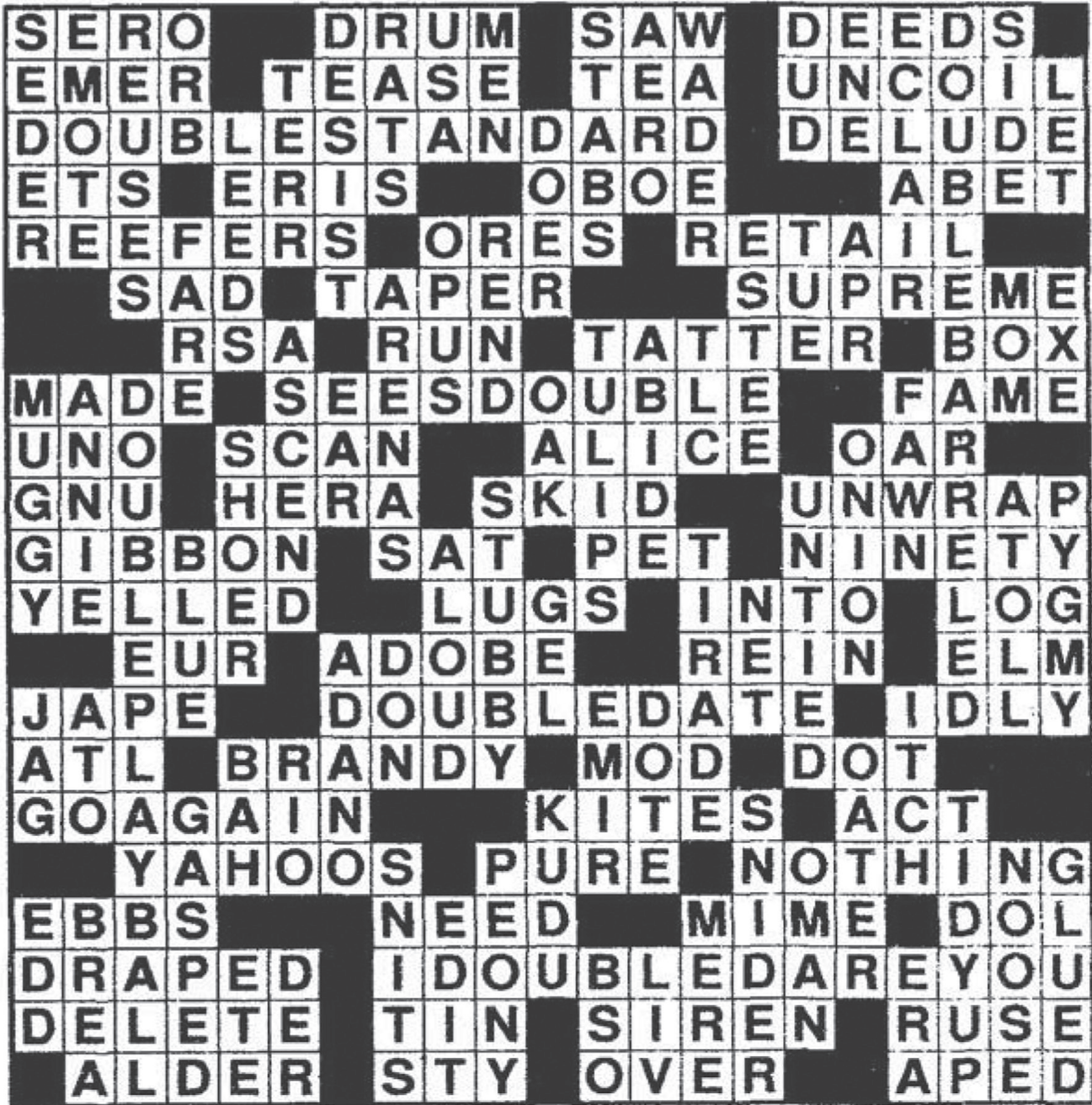
But House Education Committee Chairman Richard Bennett and others had opposed more money for the program, citing a report that raised questions about the program's effectiveness and a renewal deadline next year.

Empower Mississippi, a group that promotes school choice and invested substantially in state elections in 2015, had lobbied heavily for the increased funding.

"Today was a victory for educational freedom and parent choice that will have benefits for the entire state," Empower President Grant Callen said in a statement. "We especially thank Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves for his leadership."

Teacher groups, though, vowed electoral opposition for Reeves and others who supported the move.

"Several members of the Senate leadership are going to be asking for your vote later this year, including Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves who is running for governor," Mississippi Professional Educators Executive Director Kelly Riley wrote. "It is critical that educators hold the Senate leadership accountable for such tactics when they exercise their right to vote later this year."



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Corn	Sep 19	2019 Aug	3.79	-0.11	3.68 0.04
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Soybeans G'wood	May 19	2019 Mar. - Deferred Pricing only	8.96	-0.46	8.50 0.11
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 19	2019 Aug-Sep	9.28	-0.32	8.96 0.09
Soybeans G'wood	Jan 20	2020 Jan	9.38	-0.24	9.14 0.10
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 19	2019 Aug-Sep	9.28	-0.38	8.90 0.09
Rice	May 19		10.860		0.010
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