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Taking an economic inventory

County's new economic development head settles in

By Matthew Breazeale

Holmes County's "unique" location within Mississippi is a blueprint for future economic progress, according to the county's new development head.

John Greer, a Carthage native and Madison resident, is now working with the county board of supervisors in steering the county's direction for improving its economic edge.

Greer has taken on the mantle of CEO for the Holmes County Economic Development District, which was established "out of the ashes of the Holmes County Economic Development Authority," according to Greer. "Holmes County Board of Supervisors decided in their wisdom to create an entity, I think about two years ago, that they named Holmes



JOHN GREER

County Economic Development District," said Greer. "It's an extension of them, directly. Historically we've had an economic development authority here, for a number of years." Foster Ellis was the previous overseer of the HCEDD. "Economic and community development, this has all been my body of work," said Greer. "I don't know what

Foster did and did not do for the county, but we had the Holmes County Economic Development Authority for a number of years. I think it was Ed Hooker; he used to own Hooker Insurance, he ran it for a long time.

"The board decided, and I'm just putting these pieces together assuming this, to create this Holmes County Economic Development District," added Greer, who is also president and CEO of his own firm, The Greer Group, Inc.

Greer is bringing twenty-five plus years of experience to the position, having worked for the Mid-Delta Community Development Corporation, United State Small Business Administration, U.S. Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery and the Mississippi Develop-



The west end roof of the former Masonic Lodge building, currently owned by Holmes County, on the Lexington Court Square, suffered damage and subsequently collapsed. The damaged went through to the first floor where the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce office was housed. The chamber is currently seeking a new location. The photo was taken on May 22. (Photo by Landon Voller/Belinda Stewart Architects)

ment Authority, formerly the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development.

Greer explained that he'll seek to take advantage of Holmes County's geographical location in relation to In-

terstate 55 and Interstate 20. "That to me is just the beginning," Greer explained. (Continued on page 2.)

Members of the board



Pictured above (from left): Jakarrea Bankhead, Jamiah Williams and Jaiden Russell enjoy a friendly board game during recreational time at the opening day, Monday, June 3, of summer programs for the Lexington Unit of the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Delta. Summer activities for the club are held at the Holmes County Central High School in Lexington. (Photo by Kawanna Horton)

County represented at 4-H meet



Holmes County's 4-H delegation that represented at the 2019 MS 4-H Club Congress is pictured above (from left): 4-H'ers Davian Powell, Madison Jackson, Olivia Howell, Lindsey Huffman, Tyler Branch, volunteer Angie Love and Extension Agent Tara Howell. The county was well represented and enjoyed the 3 day event, May 29-31. See the full report in this week's Clover Corner on page 3. (Photo by Betsy Padgett)

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Thursday Thunderstorms 78/70 Precip. Chance 90%	Friday Thunderstorms 83/70 Precip. Chance 100%	Saturday Thunderstorms 84/71 Precip. Chance 90%	Sunday Scattered T-Storms 85/70 Precip. Chance 60%	Monday Partly Cloudy 86/67 Precip. Chance 20%	Tuesday Mostly Sunny 85/65 Precip. Chance 10%	Wednesday Mostly Sunny 86/65 Precip. Chance 10%

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