



Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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Q: Our 14-year-old (he’s going into the ninth grade at a public high school) has taken up with a bunch of kids that we don’t exactly approve of. They have reputations as troublemakers and at least one has already been arrested for shoplifting and had to do some community service. The irony is, they all come from families that are highly regarded in the community. We haven’t seen any dramatic change in our son’s behavior, but he has become more secretive and has told us he doesn’t want to play sports anymore. In the opinion of lots of parents, the kids in question are under-supervised. Naturally, we’re concerned about the potential bad influence. I want to tell him to find new friends; my husband wants to take a wait-and-see. What do you think we should do?

A: I don’t mind taking sides in this; to wit, I agree with your husband.

To begin with, it’s completely normal for kids your son’s age to be flexing their independence – it’s all part of preparing for emancipation (which you should be preparing for as well). In the process of establishing emotional distance from parents and family, a certain amount of “secretiveness” is to be expected, no matter the nature of the child’s peer group. In and of itself, that’s neither a bad nor a good thing; it’s just the way it is.

Boys are naturally inclined toward risk-taking. If they aren’t provided sufficient opportunities to take risks in relatively safe contexts – wilderness camping experiences, for example – they are more likely to gravitate toward peers and activities that are inappropriate or truly dangerous. I witnessed that as a teen and saw the potential for it in my son when he entered adolescence.

The young teen boy (and

not boys only, by the way) is in danger of making supremely impulsive decisions; his parents, on the other hand, are in danger of reacting such that he becomes more secretive and perhaps even rebellious. Your husband understands that, I’m sure, which is why he doesn’t want to make matters worse by “clamping down” without a good, concrete reason. In that regard, I need to point out that something as subjective as “We have a bad feeling about those kids” just doesn’t qualify.

I strongly encourage you to trust your husband’s judgment. Partly because they don’t have an intimate understanding of boy-ness, Moms generally tend toward over-protection, even over-reaction in situations of this sort. Unless there’s more here than is reflected in your question, I feel confident in saying that your husband will intuitively know the when and how of intervention if intervention becomes warranted.

In the meantime, this is an ideal time of year to enroll

your son in some activities – like the wilderness camping experience I mentioned above – that would satisfy his need for risk while at the same time providing adequate supervision and guidance. Dad can certainly jump in there by planning summer father-son getaways that involve hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, dirt-biking, and things of that sort.

Where your son’s choice of friends is concerned, he’s bound to expand his social sphere when he enters high

school in the fall. His present choice of running buddies may turn out to be nothing more than a fling. For now, just keep your eyes open and be ready to step in and establish controls should it begin to look like he’s about to lose all semblance of common sense.

Remember that energy you expend worrying will be energy you won’t have when you most need it.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

Lexington included in airport improvement grants

U.S. Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) announced Thursday, June 6, the award of \$5.68 million for improvements to 12 airports in Mississippi.

The grants will be awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on behalf of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

“Mississippi’s airports connect our state to the wider world and contribute to economic development, tourism, and commerce in their communities,” Wicker said. “This funding will support growth and improve safety for the many travelers, businesses, and pilots who rely upon these airports across our state.”

“Viable airports require regular maintenance and upgrades, particularly those serving rural communities. This first series of FAA grants support those efforts at Mississippi airports. They will be used to improve safety and to help draw industry and economic development to these communities,” Hyde-Smith said.

The FAA grants for Mississippi will support the following airport improvement projects:

- Dean Griffin Memorial Airport, City of Wiggins – \$1,610,403 to rehabilitate 12,000 square yards of the existing apron pavement, 3,500 feet of the existing runway, and 500 feet of the existing taxiway;

- Panola County Airport, Panola County – \$1,446,570 to rehabilitate 5,001 feet of runway;

- Stennis International Airport, Hancock County – \$699,061 to rehabilitate 8,000 feet of the existing parallel taxiway pavement;

- Pontotoc County Airport, Pontotoc County – \$411,240 to construct a 9,450-square-foot hangar building and rehabilitate 560 feet of the existing hangar taxiways;

- C. A. Moore Airport, City of Lexington – \$348,210 to rehabilitate 3,200 feet of runway, 185 feet of the existing taxiway, and 5,000 square yards of the existing terminal apron;

- McCharen Field, City of West Point – \$219,367 to acquire 39.6 acres of land;

- James H. Easom Field, City of Newton – \$208,800 to rehabilitate 300 square yards of the existing apron pavement and remove tree obstructions;

- Indianola Municipal Airport, City of Indianola – \$200,358 to rehabilitate 2,250 feet of runway;

- Iuka Airport, City of Iuka – \$180,159 to remove tree and terrain obstructions to improve safety;

- Olive Branch Airport, City of Olive Branch – \$150,000 to update the airport master plan narrative report and airport layout plan;

- Columbus-Lowndes County Airport, City of Columbus – \$141,570 to rehabilitate 4,500 feet of runway;

- Prentiss-Jefferson Davis County Airport, City of Prentiss – \$64,420 to rehabilitate 10,000 square yards of the existing terminal apron and 310 feet of the airport’s existing access road.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX EFFORT HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Holmes County Consolidated District will hold a public hearing on its proposed school district budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 on Thursday, June 20, 2019, 10:00 a.m. at the Holmes County Consolidated School District School Board Meeting Room located at 313 Olive Street, Lexington, MS 39095. At this meeting, a proposed ad valorem tax effort will be considered.

The Holmes County Consolidated School District is now operating with a projected total budget revenue of \$29,965,979. Of that amount, 21.73% or \$6,511,182 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$30,416,685. Of that amount, 25.18% or \$7,657,722 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the proposed increase in ad valorem tax effort by Holmes County Consolidated School District may result in an increase in the ad valorem tax millage rate. Ad valorem taxes are paid on homes, automobile tags, business fixtures and equipment, and rental real property.

Any citizen of the Holmes County Consolidated School District is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax effort, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

/s/ James L. Henderson
Dr. James L. Henderson,
Superintendent of Education
Holmes County Consolidated School District
Lexington, MS 39095