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**Serving
Holmes
County
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HOLMES COUNTY

HERALD



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 62 - NUMBER 12

Schools in county on hold amid viral pandemic

By Matthew Breazeale

Concerns for the health and welfare of all Mississippi's residents grow as county education systems extend their spring breaks for students.

The virus that causes an upper respiratory infection, COVID-19 or coronavirus, is spreading throughout the United States. The current outbreak originated in China.

The Holmes County Consolidated School District, Central Holmes Christian School and Holmes Community College have rescheduled students' return to the physical classroom at least, with HCC resorting to online options.

On March 14, the HCC-

SD announced its closure through March 23.

"At that time, district maintenance staff and bus drivers will be working to disinfect all school buses, as well as continue to disinfect our school buildings and classrooms," according to a district press release.

Bus drivers and maintenance staff reported to work on March 16 and 17 to facilitate the cleaning.

"All other staff members and students will report on Monday, March 23, 2020," said the release.

The school district announced on its website that school meals would continue for students. Each day

of school closure students can get daily "Grab-N-Go Breakfasts & Lunches" to be delivered at bus stops.

Breakfast is 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., and lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Central Holmes Christian School released a statement on March 14, that it will not have school, March 16-20, under recommendation from the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools.

The day care at CHCS will remain open.

A letter was sent out to parents on March 16, saying school officials would make a decision on March 20 concerning the next school week.

"Moving forward, our staff will be preparing as if school will be out for an extended time frame. Lesson plans will be on RenWeb and will be very specific for parents and students. All plans will be posted on Wednesday, March 18 for the week of March 23 - March 27. Although we hope to be back in school this week, if circumstances prevent us from doing so, then lesson plans and assignments will already be in place for students," said the letter. "All students will have class packets/folders to be picked up from school each week. Pick up days and times will be listed below. ALL teachers will be accessible to you through RenWeb, email, or telephone. Your teachers should be in communication with you

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Boater reported missing found dead at Bee Lake

By Matthew Breazeale

The body of a Holmes County man was recovered from Bee Lake near Thornton on Monday, March 16.

Chester Davis Henry, 69, who reportedly lived on Highway 17 north, was reported missing by family on Wednesday, March 11.

According to Holmes County Deputy Coroner Ruby Redmond, Henry was discovered by state game wardens in the lake around 3:15/3:20 p.m. Redmond said Henry had no obvious or apparent injuries. Redmond said she could not give a preliminary cause of death on Tuesday morning, March 17, when asked by the *Herald*.

The body was sent to the state crime lab in Jackson for autopsy. The investigation is ongoing.

Redmond added that Henry was discovered from



CHESTER HENRY

about fifty yards where his boat was overturned.

Holmes County Sheriff Willie March reported that Henry was wearing a life vest and suspected the incident was a boating accident.

County democrats pick Biden, republicans tap Trump in primary

Staff Report

Unofficial poll results from the March 10 primary election in Holmes County have been released.

Holmes County had 3,911 ballots cast, excluding absentee ballots.

Joe Biden took the majority of democratic votes in the

county with Donald Trump garnering majority of the republican votes.

There will also be a run off vote between republican candidates for 2nd Congressional District, Thomas L. Carey and Brian Flowers.

President-Democrat: Joseph Biden, 2924

votes/83.02%; Michael R. Bloomberg, 93 votes/2.64%; Pete Buttigieg, 10 votes/0.28%; Tulsi Gabbard, 6 votes/0.17%; Amy Klobuchar, 6 votes/0.17%; Deval Patrick, 7 votes/0.20%; Bernie Sanders, 453 votes/12.86%; Tom Steyer, 7 votes/0.20%; Elizabeth Warren, 7 votes/0.20%; Andrew Yang, 6 votes/0.17%; and Write-in Votes, 3/0.09%.

Senate-Democrat: Toby Bernard Bartee, 61 votes/1.75%; Jensen Bohren, 45 votes/1.29%; Mike Epsy, 3383 votes/96.93%; and Write-in Vote, 1/0.03%.

2nd Congressional District-Democrat: Sonia Rathburn, 106 votes/3.07%; Bennie G. Thompson, 3346 votes/96.87%; and Write-in Votes, 2/0.06%.

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Courts prompted to limit attendance of legal proceedings

By Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael K. Randolph

On March 15, 2020, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), addressing the national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020, issued its "Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The CDC recommends the

cancellation or postponement of all in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next eight weeks, as such events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Their recommendation does not apply to day-to-day operations of organizations, such as schools and businesses.

The Supreme Court has previously found that certain emergency actions are required in light of the pandemic nature of this emergency and the rapidly changing circumstances. In my capacity as chief administrative officer of all courts in this state and consistent with the first Emergency Administrative Order, I find that the following modifications and/or amendments are required.

I find the CDC's Interim Guidance to be the latest information available to the Court. I find it is necessary for the general welfare and health of the citizens of this state to further restrict

the size of gatherings in our courts, for the next eight weeks. This step is to hinder the introduction of the virus into the courthouses of this state and to slow the spread of infection into our communities.

The March 13, 2020 Emergency Administrative Order is amended and modified as follows:

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. To comply with the CDC's Interim Guidance of March 15, 2020, courts shall not permit gatherings of more than 50 people beyond the persons involved in the day-to-day operations of

Lexington municipal court rescheduled

Press Release

Due to concerns surrounding COVID-19 (coronavirus), the city of Lexington Municipal Court has cancelled all court proceedings scheduled for March 26, 2020.

If you had a matter scheduled for Municipal Court on March 26, 2020 it has been rescheduled for April 23, 2020.

Failure to appear on April 23, 2020 may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest. Questions? Contact (662) 834-3508.

the courts. Courts shall not conduct any proceedings that require witnesses or parties to travel from an infected area or that involve vulnerable persons, increasing the

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**YASIN BERNARD
MCGEE**

Man arrested on aggravated assault charges

Staff Report

The Lexington Police Department has arrested Yasin Bernard McGee, of Lexington on Monday, March 16, 2020, in connection with an aggravated assault case on Elder James Roger St. in Lexington.

McGee was charged with two counts of aggravated assault and booked into the Holmes-Humphreys County Correctional Facility.

50¢ Single Copy



Thursday
A.M. Thunderstorms
82/67
Precip. Chance
40 %



Friday
Thunderstorms
71/45
Precip. Chance
80 %



Saturday
Mostly Cloudy
59/45
Precip. Chance
20 %



Sunday
Showers
58/51
Precip. Chance
50 %



Monday
Showers
67/59
Precip. Chance
50 %



Tuesday
Showers
76/60
Precip. Chance
40 %



Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
76/60
Precip. Chance
20 %

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