

NOTICE: The office of the Holmes County Herald on the Lexington Court Square has closed to the public to help reinforce social distancing practices and raise COVID-19 awareness. We can still be reached by phone: 662-834-1151; email: hcherald@gmail.com; or fax: 662-834-1074. If you need to drop an item off for publication just slip it under our door (include your phone number). Don't forget, our newsstands are located in Tchula: Save Maxx and Peak's Quick foods; in Lexington: Double Quick, Sunflower and Marathon; in Durant: Double Quick, Durant Smoke Shop and Mac's Fresh Market; and in Goodman at Marathon. The newspaper rack in front of the Holmes County Herald office takes quarters only. See other locations if you need change.



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HERALD

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Trump extends virus guidelines, braces US for big death toll

Associated Press
Bracing the nation for a coronavirus death toll that could exceed 100,000 people, President Donald Trump extended restrictive social distancing guidelines through April, bowing to public health experts who presented him with even more dire projections for the expanding coronavirus pandemic.



PRESIDENT TRUMP

by the Republican president, who only days ago mused

about the country reopening in a few weeks. From the Rose Garden, he said his Easter revival hopes had only been "aspirational." The initial 15-day period of social distancing urged by the federal government expires Monday, and Trump had expressed interest in relaxing the national guidelines at least in parts of the country less afflicted by the pandemic. He instead decid-

ed to extend them through April 30, a tacit acknowledgment he'd been too optimistic. Many states and local governments have stiffer controls in place on mobility and gatherings. Trump's impulse to reopen the country met a sober reality check Sunday from Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, who said the (Continued on page 9.)

Missing man's body found in Mississippi lake

Associated Press
Authorities have pulled the body of a man reported missing from a Mississippi lake. Anthony Lee Taylor, 35, was found in Tchula Lake on Thursday, said Holmes County Deputy Coroner Ruby Redmond. Taylor was reported missing March 18, Tchula Assistant Police Chief Fred Randle told WLBT-TV. The case is being investigated as a homicide. An



ANTHONY TAYLOR autopsy will be performed by the State Crime Lab, Redmond said.

West man missing since Sunday



The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation has issued a Silver Alert for 85 year old Alvin G. Tidwell of West, MS, in Holmes County. He is described as a black male, six feet and one inch tall, weighing 125 pounds with black and grey hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a black and white sweater with blue and white stripes, denim jeans, camouflage suspenders and blue shoes. He was last seen walking in an unknown direction on Sunday, March 29, 2020, at about 1:30 P.M. in the 3000 block of Old Wilson Road in Holmes County. Family members say Alvin G. Tidwell suffers from a medical condition that may impair his judgement. If anyone has information regarding the whereabouts of Alvin G. Tidwell contact Holmes County Sheriff's Department at 662-834-1511. (Photo Submitted)

Handcrafted healthcare

Durant resident joins COVID-19 fight by stitching face masks

By Matthew Breazeale
As medical supplies become more limited nation wide, some are putting personal ingenuity into practice. When Martha Jo Killebrew, of Durant, heard two weeks ago that her niece's health clinic was out of face masks, she headed to her sewing machine. Killebrew thought of those healthcare workers on the frontlines against the COVID-19 spread. Taking scraps of cloth and elastic, Killebrew stationed at her sewing machine, created washable and reusable medical masks. Each mask is double layered with elastic loops on either side. Killebrew's niece, Christy Hull, is a nurse practitioner at CarePlus in Madison, Mississippi. Hull sent word to her family about the situation of the mask shortages. "I can mail three at a time in an envelope," said Killebrew. "The masks can also be microwaved to eighty degrees to kill germs or the coronavirus." Killebrew produces each mask roughly one an hour even with elastic and white thread becoming more difficult to acquire recently. Other materials substituted for elastic include ponytail holders and elastic shoelaces. Killebrew also said she recommends each person have three masks, "...one to wear, one to wash and one for spare." Killebrew and her husband Robert are stringently following current health guideline of social distancing, enforced, Killebrew says jokingly, by their children.



Pictured from counter clockwise starting above, a new batch of face masks ready to be mailed; Martha Jo Killebrew stands outside her home showing three hand crafted masks; below, nurses at CarePlus don the much needed masks.



Holmes County man reported second state death for COVID-19

Press Release
The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) reported on Wednesday, March 25, the second death from coronavirus (COVID-19) in Mississippi. The case was a male 60-65 years old from Holmes County with underlying health conditions. He died while hospitalized.

(As of press time Tuesday, March 31) Mississippi had 827 cases. The first death reported was a male 60-65 from Hancock County with underlying health conditions. MSDH strives to update new case counts at 10 a.m. each day. "We knew that more deaths would be inevitable, just as we expect numerous new cases. It is a very sad update to report, regardless," said MSDH State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH. "Please do your part by practicing all preventive (Continued on page 11.)

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Thursday Mostly Cloudy 73/54 Precip. Chance 0%	Friday Partly Cloudy 76/57 Precip. Chance 20%	Saturday P.M. Showers 76/57 Precip. Chance 40%	Sunday Partly Cloudy 81/64 Precip. Chance 20%	Monday Scattered T'Storms 80/69 Precip. Chance 50%	Tuesday Scattered T'Storms 82/69 Precip. Chance 50%	Wednesday Scattered T'Storms 81/66 Precip. Chance 50%

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