

Governor Tate Reeves announces COVID-19 assistance for homeowners and first responders

Press Release
Governor Tate Reeves announced on Wednesday, April 15, further efforts to support homeowners and first responders who are being stretched thin during the COVID-19 outbreak. Working with the Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) and Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), Governor Reeves is providing mortgage assistance for homeowners and emergency childcare for essential personnel and first responders to help relieve the burden of hardworking Mississippians across our state.

Mortgage Assistance
MHC has reopened the Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) to provide short-term mortgage assistance to those who have lost employment or income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will allow MHC to pay monthly mortgage payment assistance. People can submit applications through an online portal: mshomesaver.com.

“I saw firsthand the homes

that were lost to the tornadoes this weekend. It breaks my heart. There are more who are at risk of losing their homes to our nation’s economic crisis. We can’t stop the wind from blowing, but we can try to stop more from losing these homes,” said Governor Tate Reeves.

HHF is a program of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which first allocated funds to Mississippi in 2010. Mississippi has used the funds to stabilize local housing markets and help families avoid foreclosures. The program targets assistance toward unemployed homeowners or underemployed homeowners and those with homes that are worth less than their value of their mortgages.

“MHC is taking action to help families navigate the evolving impact COVID-19 is having on our communities. It is our hope that through re-opening the Hardest Hit Fund we are able to help Mississippi families who have been impacted

by this national crisis,” said MHC Executive Director Scott Spivey.

Emergency Childcare for First Responders
Working with the Governor and the state’s COVID-19 response, MDHS has joined with the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) to provide much-needed childcare services for emergency and essential personnel who would otherwise not have access to it because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our essential workers are being asked to do things that others aren’t. They are stepping into the line of fire to provide what we all need to stay safe. We need to do everything that we can to help them. We hope that this expanded access to child care will lighten the load for our essential workers. It won’t make their jobs easy. But we hope that it can make this one highly stressful element easier,” said Governor Tate Reeves.

The Childcare Crisis Assistance in Isolation Response Plan (CCAIR) is designed to serve as temporary, emergency childcare facilities during this crisis period for families listed as essential

workers in Executive Order 1463. These personnel are serving on the frontlines of this pandemic and are unable to isolate at home.

In addition to fulfilling the background, health, and safety requirements, potential partners will have access to free-of-charge CCAIR training through the Early Childhood Academy. Upon completing this training, they will be assigned a CCAIR Coach who will guide them through the process of becoming a CCAIR site.

“We have emergency and essential personnel risking their health and well-being every day to continue to provide the care and support we need to sustain our daily lives. They should not have the additional burden of finding both care and education for their children,” said MDHS Executive Director Robert G. “Bob” Anderson.

For those who need financial assistance, Emergency Certificates can be applied for.

Applications for these certificates will begin one week from today.

For more information on CCAIR, as well as what steps that must be taken before being considered for certification as a CCAIR site, you can go to www.mdhs.ms.gov/ccair.

***Changes made**
(Continued from page 1.)
may be made in-person at the Lexington Police Department, located at 207 Tchula St., Lexington, MS 39095.

Money orders for the exact amount you owe may be made payable to the City of Lexington. Please mail your payments to City of Lexington, Attn: Lexington Police Department, 207 Tchula St, Lexington, MS 39095. Please include your name and date of citation with your payment. If you pay your fine, you will NOT need to appear at your scheduled court date. Please note that payment plans are not available for in-person or

EXTENSION
TO YOU

STATE

By Betsy Padgett
Holmes County Extension
Extension is still “at work” via “teleworking” and so am I. We are under compliance orders to not conduct ANY group meetings, activities, etc. until after May 10. So, 4-H, Cattlemen’s and Forestry meetings won’t even be planned until after that date. All District and State 4-H contests, events, horse shows, etc. have been postponed. My guess, IF COVID-19 lays down its infectious risk by that date “maybe” plans to reset things might begin. I don’t look for that quite that soon

Extension wants you to remind you that April is Gardening month. As such, with the “Easter snap,” hopefully, behind us and the ground freshly watered - the planting of vegetable gardens, raised beds, container gardens, and flowers for the season should be beckoning you.

Officially, according to Extension’s Garden Tabloid, April 23rd, is safe to plant all “warm -season” vegetables. Likewise, most summer flowers should be ready to get in the ground as well.

It is, also, a good time to be putting fire ant bait out and please follow the label instructions. However, you should wait until AFTER May 1, to fertilize your lawn.

Any other year I would be on the sunny Alabama beach enjoying a week away from home and most work responsibilities. However, “Pan” the demic has interrupted a longstanding pattern of behavior in my life. The realty company that I use, actually, canceled MY reservation.

mailed in payments.

Questions regarding this order or questions regarding the amount of your fines should be directed to the deputy clerks, at (662) 834-3508.

They explained that beaches and the pool were closed along with restaurants and entertainment venues. They had no consideration for my desire to simply change the scenery I view and soak up some of their sun-supplied Vitamin D and salty air. (All of which I could do and still obey the “shelter-in-place” and not bother anyone). Oh well.

As I glance at my wall calendar with its X’ed out days and sigh. A string of 32 years must have been too long to expect to go to one’s mental paradise.

Personally, I have enjoyed the wildflowers that the roadsides and pastures have abundantly provided. In fact, for the past several weeks, I’ve been gathering some, adding some of my knock-out roses, and bringing them indoors to brighten those intermittent dreary days that we have endured. Saturday, I even took a picture of one of those creations and shared it with a friend in Pennsylvania who was delighted to “get a slice of Lexington” via email.

Yes, we need to shelter in place, wear a face-covering, and socially distance, but let’s not let that ruin those other opportunities that present themselves. Get in touch with distant family and friends, plant something – in 70 days or so you may reap a reward and be glad you had the time to spend on something outside of your routine. Remember, God is in control. Some of us may have needed the forced slowdown and change of routine. Take advantage of the opportunities that are presenting themselves – His Word is a wonderful comfort in these times, and He is protecting us. Be thankful.

MEMBER

MPA

MISSISSIPPI PRESS ASSOCIATION

(USPS 247-680)

HOLMES COUNTY
HERALD

Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, Mississippi by Holmes County Herald, Lexington, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Holmes County Herald, P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095. Published each Thursday at 308 Court Square, Lexington, MS 39095. Telephone 662-834-1151; Fax 662-834-1074; Email hcherald@gmail.com; Website www.holmescounty-herald.com

Matthew Breazeale....Editor

Julie Ellison...Gen. Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Holmes County - \$35.00

Obituary



SARA MELTON STARNs
Sara Melton Starns passed away on April 19, 2020 at her home in West, MS after a brief illness. She was 76.

Sara was born on August 22, 1943 in Lexington, MS to Perry and Louise Melton. She graduated from Castleberry High School in Ft. Worth, TX and later attended Holmes Junior College where she was a basketball cheerleader. She married David Starns on April 10, 1964 and the union produced three children. Sara was a strong, devout Christian and a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. Sara was active in her community and church where she played piano and worked with Friends of The Library in her hometown. She was preceded in death by both her parents but is survived by her husband, David of West, MS. She is

also survived by her son Nathan Starns (Heather) of Hattiesburg, MS, daughter Bronwyn Robertson (Danny) of Jackson, MS and son Seth Starns of West, MS.

Sara never missed an opportunity to have her family near her and she leaves behind seven grandchildren (Abby, Mason, Maggie, Betsy, Tanner, Brister, and Eli) who will sorely miss their “SaSa”. Sara is also survived by sisters, Mrs. Louise “Peggy” Bookout of Louisville, MS and Mrs. Melissa Stuckey (Clayton) of Pace, FL. She also leaves behind her only surviving aunt, Mrs. Roselle Lefferts of West, MS and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Porter Funeral Home of Louisville, MS but there will be no visitation. A private family graveside service will be held at Old Wheeling Cemetery in Holmes County, MS. In lieu of flowers, please donate in her memory to the Friends of the Library, c/o Leca Dew, P. O. Box 25, West, MS, 39192, or a preferred charity.

To sign the guestbook, please go to www.porterfuneralhome.net

Governor Reeves extends school closures to end of school year

Press Release
On Tuesday, April 14, Governor Tate Reeves announced that schools in Mississippi will remain closed for the rest of the school year to slow the spread of COVID-19.

To ensure that Mississippi students’ education continues through the remainder of the school year, Governor Reeves is asking every school to submit distance learning plans to mitigate and enhance their learning. He is also asking that educators prepare for summer or early fall learning as an option for make-up school.

“I know how hard teachers, students, all staff, and parents have been working during this dangerous time. You have my deep respect and sincere admiration. It has been so encouraging to see the efforts of our education community to protect the people of Mississippi while ensuring learning takes place. I know our education community will do whatever it takes to make sure Mississippi kids don’t fall behind,” said Governor Tate Reeves.

CALENDAR
OF
EVENTS

WEST GROVE MBC
West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will host its Musician’s 18th Year Appreciation Service on Sunday, April 26, at 11 a.m. Performance groups are asked to render an A and B selection.

ADDICTION HELP
Narconon reminds readers about the dangers of fentanyl, an incredibly potent

chemical that has contributed to the increase in overdose deaths across America. Many don’t know that one thing that makes fentanyl so dangerous is the it can be absorbed in the system through skin contact, leading to a potentially fatal overdose. Narconon can help you take the steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals at 1-800-431-1754.

Kosciusko
Monument Company

225 HWY 12 W. • 662.792.4139

“The Best Prices In Town.”