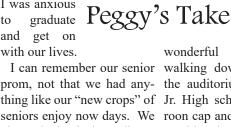
THURSDAY,

# Seniors of 2020

has been quite a few years since I was in their shoes, but I can remember SO well my senior year.

I was married in October of my senior year of high school and of course I was anxious graduate



ber ours was titled, "Cinder- life I will never forget. ella" and I may still have the I have talked to several

time it was the most beautiful "hoopla" that would have

When I found out that our thing I had ever worn. The seniors this year were miss- main thing I remember was ing out on everything all that as we got into the car, high school seniors look my zipper broke! My dress forward to at the end of this fell down around my waist. long 12 – 13-year journey, I I was at my best friend's feel somewhat unhappy as house and she was going to to what they are missing. It let me borrow a dress, but

> mother deterwas mined I wear pretty the yellow dress. She met me and brought her needle and thread and repaired me, in the dress and I enjoyed my senior prom with my husband!

I have pic-

wonderful memories I can remember our senior walking down the aisle of prom, not that we had any- the auditorium, now at the thing like our "new crops" of Jr. High school, in my maseniors enjoy now days. We roon cap and gown covering always had a sit-down dinner a white dress and graduatwith a speaker, no dance, not ing with honors from high much frivolity. I can remem- school. It was a time in my

Cinderella coach we were seniors and they all say, given as a token of remem- "I really don't care about walking an aisle as long as I The main thing I can read- graduate." They may really ily remember was that I wore believe they feel that way a beautiful yellow strapless now, but I feel like as they evening dress and at that age, they too will miss the I just wonder if the last

few days that they were in school, if they had known what was going to happen, just days from then, if they would have looked at their peers with melancholy in their eyes and feelings of loss in their hearts. Again, I remember all of my graduating class of 1963 and all the times we have been together since May of 1963, we have rejoiced in the friendships that were shaped and created during those high school

been theirs.

I am really hoping that sometime in the future, when all this life changing phenomena has gone away, that the class of 2020 can and will want and need to celebrate the end of a most wonderful era.

My husband loves coconut cake so during this isolating time, I decided to make him one as a "happy."

#### **COCONUT CAKE**

1 box of yellow cake mix 4 eggs

1 box of instant coconut pudding mix

½ cup of sour cream ½ cup milk

> 1 t. vanilla extract 1/3 cup of oil

1 cup of sweetened coconut. Mix all together and pour into two greased round cake pans. Bake 35-40 minutes at 350\* Frosting – 1 can of butter cream frosting-spread

over the cake and press in

## Conservation Corner

by James Cummins **Executive Director** of Wildlife Mississippi

The largemouth bass is one of the most soughtafter game fish in Mississippi. Each year, thousands of anglers take to the water with hopes of catching that once-in-a-lifetime bass.

The largemouth bass is the largest of the basses, known as black bass. Black bass are members of the sunfish family, but differ from other sunfish because of their longer, more streamlined body. Other black bass that are native to Mississippi's waters include smallmouth bass and spotted bass. Largemouth bass get their name from their large mouth in which the upper jaw reaches far beyond the rear margins of the

Adult largemouth average 10 to 20 inches in length and weigh between 0.50 and 4.50 pounds. Bass in excess of 8.0 pounds are not uncommon.

two cups of sweetened coconut all over.

\* Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.

caused by compliance with

coronavirus health guide-

lines has been devastating

for many Americans, but real

help is now within sight. The

recently enacted CARES Act

provides urgently needed

financial assistance to fami-

lies, displaced workers, and

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker

Wicker details economic

relief for Mississippians

Federal aid is now available to MS workers, businesses

Bass in deep Southern waters may live to be 10 years of age and therefore have the ability to gain more weight.

Largemouth bass are a dark-greenish color along their back and across the upper side of their body. The mid-side has a broad, blackish strip and below the lateral line the color is gradually lighter and turns to white along the belly and underside. The tail fin in young bass exhibits a bicolor arrangement with the rear part of the fin being much darker than the basal part.

The largemouth is tolerant to various conditions, but is more commonly suited to waters with no current. Studies show that largemouth prefer a temperature range of 77 to 86 degrees F.

Largemouth bass are commonly found around underwater structure (logs, brush piles, and artificial structures). They are predators and use this underwater structure as cover which enables them to move quickly

on prey. Largemouth can be found cruising in the shallows and feeding during low light. Major food sources for adult largemouth bass are crayfish, large insects, frogs, and shad. Young bass feed on small insects.

Bass begin spawning when the water temperature reaches the mid 60s. Males will choose nest sites in 1 to 4 feet of water. The female will lay her eggs in one or several nest sites. A female will generally drop between 2,000 and 7,000 eggs. Exhausted from laying eggs, the female will retreat to deeper water to recover for a period of 2 to 3 weeks while the male stays behind to guard the nest. The male will attack any intruder and will constantly fan the nest keeping the eggs free of silt and debris. The eggs generally hatch within 3 to 5 days depending on the water temperature.

Hatchlings, called fry, will quickly form schools and move to the nearest cover available to search for food and hide from predators. Of the 2,000 to 7,000 eggs laid, only 5 to 10 of these fish will survive to reach a length of 10 inches.

Administration (SBA) and can be accessed through any of Mississippi's SBA-certified lenders. Businesses can borrow up to 2.5 times their monthly payroll costs (up to \$10 million), and costs associated with those loans will be forgiven if at least 75% of the money goes toward payroll and up to 25% goes toward utilities, rent, and mortgage interest payments over eight weeks. These loans are also available to farmers, independent contractors, For those who have kept certain nonprofits, and faithbased organizations.

Small businesses can also to the COVID-19 outbreak, apply for Economic Injury new paid leave benefits are Disaster Loans. President available. The recently en- Donald Trump's nationacted Families First Corona- wide disaster declaration virus Response Act requires made every small business certain employers to provide in America eligible to apply paid leave for workers if they for this aid, which includes have coronavirus symptoms a \$10,000 advance payment or are forced to stay home that does not have to be rebecause of a government- paid. And while waiting for imposed quarantine. Work- a loan decision or disburseers are also eligible for par- ment, businesses that urgenttial paid leave if they have to ly need cash can apply for an stay home with their children SBA Express Bridge Loan of because of school closures or up to \$25,000. These loans need to care for someone un- can be accessed through any of Mississippi's SBA-certified lenders and can arrive within three days.

The assistance provided

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## **Immediate Relief** for Workers

businesses.

Mississippi residents are beginning to see fast and direct relief in the form of payments from the U.S. Treasury. These payments provide up to \$1,200 for individual tax filers and \$2,400 for joint filers, depending on income, with an additional \$500 per child. Every American making less than \$99,000 will receive this assistance, including those who receive Social Security benefits or Social Security income. And no action is required. The Treasury will deliver the money based on information from each per-

son's most recent tax filings. Those who have lost their jobs because of this crisis can get additional help. The CARES Act makes available an extra \$600 per week for those who are unemployed, on top of the unemployment benefit determined by the Mississippi Department of Employment Secu-

The heavy economic toll \$600 will last through July 31. More information about eligibility and how to apply can be found on the MDES website: mdes.ms.gov.

> their jobs but have to stay home for reasons relating der quarantine.

### **Keeping Small Businesses Going**

businesses Struggling across the nation now have by the CARES Act is ala critical lifeline in the Pay- ready making a difference check Protection Program. for families and businesses. This program, authorized by For more information about the CARES Act, will help these and other programs, businesses keep their work- Mississippians can visit the ers on payroll during this coronavirus resources page economic slowdown. The on my website at: wicker. program was rolled out with- senate.gov/coronavirus-rein seven days of the law's sources. This page is a oneenactment, but the sheer vol- stop shop for COVID-19ume of applications caused related materials, including some delays and frustration. links to apply for assistance The loans offered through programs, frequently asked this program are adminis- questions, and the most uprity (MDES). This additional tered by the Small Business to-date guidance.