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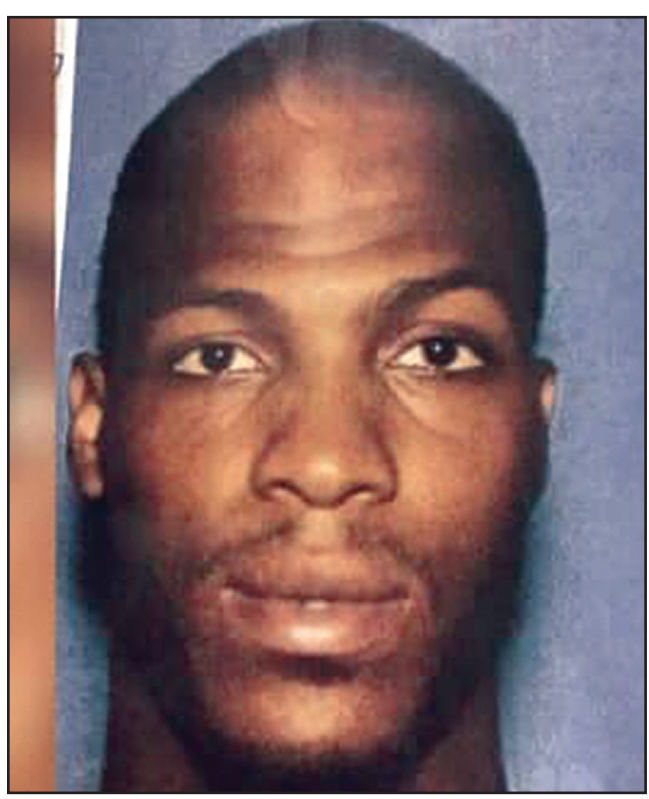
Establishment of long-awaited Lexington food pantry underway

Staff Report
“Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain or accomplish for yourself - it’s what you do for others,” said Danny Thomas. In keeping with his words, a group of longtime Holmes County residents recently convened as a coalition to open a food pantry/bank with the mission of addressing hunger by offering residents more access to healthy, affordable foods. The group is currently accepting donations.
“Though the group organized before the threat of COVID-19 began impacting communities, the coalition is even more driven now to address the need for nutritious, affordable food in Lexington.”

ton,” said Marven Cantave, Mississippi State Extension agent with the AIM for Change Program/Lexington community wellness manager.
The organizers’ goals are for the food pantry to provide access to nutritious food to the most food-insecure populations in the greater Lexington area.
Recognizing the need for developed strategies and solutions to food insecurity in Lexington and, driven by a common desire to do for others, the group has continued to secure key resources in the establishment of the city’s first food pantry.
“We are so grateful for this resource in Lexington

to better serve the nutritional needs of our community. During this COVID-19 health and economic crisis, now more than ever, families need assistance in their ability to provide food for their families” said Robin McCrory, Lexington mayor.
“Clients will have access to hearty food items and referral services to other economic and social services in the region,” Cantave said, who is also a Mississippi State University Extension Service agent in Holmes County. “This is more than a project; it is an opportunity for our community members to come together and actively pursue a happier, healthier Lexington. This is home, and this food pantry will work to serve the needs of our friends and families.”
The citizens and businesses of Lexington are also being called upon to support the efforts through donations. Please join our founding members of the Lexington Food Pantry including, Ed

Officials seeking escaped inmate



The Holmes County Sheriff’s Department is seeking Ronnie Madison 26-year-old an escaped inmate from Holmes-Humphreys Regional Correctional Facility. Madison was being held on charges of armed robbery, aggravated assault and burglary. He’s considered armed and dangerous. If you know where he may be, call HCSD at 662-834-1511 or Holmes County Crime Stoppers at 662-834-9900. (Courtesy Photo)

A Winning Combination

4-H blends hobby with skill-building for two cousins

By Susan M. Collins-Smith MSU Extension Service
Tredell and Anthony Meeks have been riding horses since they were small children. But six years ago, they decided they wanted to join 4-H in Holmes County and participate in competitions. “We saw other 4-H members who were doing horse competitions, and we thought it looked like fun,” says 18-year-old Anthony. “We wanted to try it.”
By all accounts, the pair

are something to see atop their horses; they often draw a crowd at events. Tredell with horse Daisy and Anthony with horse Charlie Girl took top honors at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship in Georgia in 2019. Tredell won first place in the pole bending competition, fifth place in stakes, and made the top 20 in barrel racing. Anthony placed in the top 20 in all speed events and took fourth place in breakaway. They competed

against nearly 100 other participants.
Both young men are humble about their wins and say it’s more about the sport and spending time with each other and their horses that keeps them interested.
“We’ve been around horses and been dealing with them since we were little,” Tredell, 17, explains. “We’ve ridden and raced for as long as I can remember.”
Anthony says it was

(Continued on page 9.)



Cousins Tredell and Anthony Meeks work with horses in 4-H.

(Photo by Kevin Hudson)

Governor Reeves signs “Safer At Home” Order to begin reopening state’s economy

Press Release
On Friday, April 24, Governor Tate Reeves signed a new executive order establishing a statewide Safer at Home order for Mississippi to continue protecting public health while beginning the process to safely reopen the state’s economy.
In his new executive order, Governor Reeves lays out a measured and strategic plan to reopen Mississippi while continuing to flatten the curve and conserve healthcare resources. Con-

sulting with our state health experts, the Executive Order sets out guidelines for certain business operations and healthcare activities to safely resume.
Governor Reeves announced his new executive order at his daily press briefing on Friday, April 24.
“This disease has not hit every American fairly. And the economic damage has not hit every American fairly. Wall Street and Hollywood will be fine. Mississippi small businesses and

workers are not. That’s who has been asked to shoulder the country’s burden. It’s not fair, and it’s not right. We are starting to re-open our economy. It’s not a light switch that only goes on and off. It’s a dimmer. We can take measured steps to make life better,” said Governor Tate Reeves.
In this latest executive order, the Governor lays out the guidelines of the Safer at Home order to continue flattening the curve, including: -Mississippians are en-

couraged to stay at home unless they need to leave for essential activities or essential travel, such as caring for someone in the vulnerable population, getting food or necessary supplies, and going to work.
-All those in the vulnerable population are instructed to continue sheltering in place to protect their health.
•This includes all elderly individuals (age 65 or older per CDC guidelines) and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised as such by chemotherapy for

(Continued on page 4.)

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