DRA announces \$29.2 million funding opportunity through U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce **Opportunity for Rural Communities Initiative**

ship with the Appalachian

The Delta Regional Au- Opportunity for Rural Com- is providing an opportunity thority (DRA), in partner- munities (WORC) Initiative. for rural communities to

Commission live some of the most resil- pipelines and continue up-(ARC) and the U.S Depart- ient and hard-working peoment of Labor's Employ- ple in our great nation, and giving access to these critical ment and Training Admin- this is seen in the innovative, resources, and we are excited istration (ETA), announced industry-driven investments to see the growth of our re-April 30 the availability of brought to life through the gion through more impactful approximately \$29.2 million WORC grant initiative," in a second round of grant said DRA Federal Co-Chair-

funding for the Workforce man Chris Caldwell. "DRA "Within the DRA footprint strengthen their workforce ward economic mobility by projects from this next round of investments."

Commissioner Chaney: Don't wait, prepare now for hurricane season

during Mississippi's Hur- eral days.

extra precautions because of happening. yourself and your family.

Purchase Personal Protec- to drink.

also include the following:

- plenishing supplies. might be closed, and hospi- passed.

starts on June 1, 2020. Now, have access to refills for sev-

- ricane Preparedness Week, A battery-powered ra-May 3-9, 2020, is the time to dio: If electricity is out and cell towers are down, this is This year we must take the best way to know what's
- Consider additional supplies ery family member and pet: you may need to protect Widespread power outages could make tap water unsafe
- tion Equipment (PPE) like Important documents: masks, hand sanitizer and Social Security cards, passdisinfectants and add them to ports, birth certificates, drivyour "Go Bag" in case you er's licenses and more could must evacuate because of a all be lost or destroyed in a flood, wildfire or any natu-Go Bag contents should ral disaster. Keep copies of these documents in a water-• Cash: If the power goes proof container or digital imout, credit cards won't work. age saved online. Include a Keep cash on hand for re- copy of your insurance policies so you can quickly file • Medications: Pharmacies a claim once the danger has

tals could be overwhelmed. "As we continue to social

any necessary medications ID-19, consider where you Atlantic hurricane season and assume you may not would go if you had to evacuate because of a storm," Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. "Mississippi storm shelters are practicing social distancing. Find out where you could safely go, what you would coronavirus (COVID-19). • A gallon of water for ev- need to bring with you, and create a communication plan with your family so every-

> Evacuations are more common than people realize.

> one understands what to do."

Make yourself familiar with your community's evacuation zones, so you will know exactly where to

If a hurricane threatens your community and local officials say it's time to evacuate, don't hesitate, go early.

Don't forget to review your insurance coverage and make sure you are familiar with your policies.

If you have questions, con-It is imperative that you pack distance because of COV- tact your insurance agent or

portunity Announcement (FOA), the ETA will award these grants to applicants that demonstrate innovative and sustainable strategies to provide needed career, training, and support services to eligible individuals to assist in meeting workforce challenges and industry needs currently underserved by other resources in the Delta and Appalachian regions.

Authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WORC Initiative grants take a long-term

insurer.

Flood damage is generally not covered by a standard homeowners or renter's insurance policy.

If you don't have flood insurance and are considering purchasing a policy, remember there is a 30-day waiting period if you buy through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

If you purchase a private flood policy, be sure and ask about the waiting period.

If you need assistance with an insurance question or claim, call 601-359-3569, email consumer@mid. ms.gov or visit www.mid. ms.gov

Lexington student tapped for honor society

Press Release

Derrel Bilsky of Lexington, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective alldiscipline collegiate honor society. Bilsky was initiated

at Delta State University. Bilsky is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the commu-

nity of scholars in service to

others."

gible communities in diver- other than Federally Recogsifying their economies and nized); Indian/Native Ameriexpanding and diversifying can tribally designated orgapartnerships by investing in nizations; Public or Indian local strategies developed by housing organizations; Nonregional partners. ETA will profit organizations; Hisaward those applicants that panic-serving institutions; align and integrate work- Tribally-controlled colleges force development activities and universities; and Historiwith existing state, regional, cally black colleges and unior community development versities. strategies. Ranging from To complement the fed-

grants include: State, county, through the Delta Workforce city, township, or special Program. Potential applidistrict governments; State cants are encouraged to visit or local workforce devel- www.dra.gov/workforce for opment boards; Regional more information and reorganizations; independent sources. school districts; Public, statecontrolled, or private institu- on grant eligibility and how tions of higher education; In- to apply, please visit grants. dian/Native American tribal gov.

view toward assisting eli- governments (Federally and

\$150,000 to \$1.5 million, the eral partnership, DRA will grants can also help serve host pre-award technical those receiving employment assistance webinars, offer and training services from post-award technical assisorganizations in regions af- tance to grantees, and make fected by the opioid crisis. an additional \$1.5 million in Those eligible for WORC grants available in July 2020

For additional information

HOLMES COUNTY MINI STORAGE AUCTION

Next to Lexington Farm Supply 22476 Depot St., Lexington, MS 39095 **AUCTION SALE DAY:**

Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. #47 John Green

TEST RESULTS By-Products

Governor Reeves extends unemployment benefits to help Mississippi workers impacted by COVID-19

Press Release

On Monday, May 11, order at his daily press brief-Governor Tate Reeves an- ing. nounced efforts to extend hard-hit by COVID-19.

sippi's dedicated workforce, 2020 to December 26, 2020. crued during this period. Governor Reeves signed a Under the initial Executive new executive order updat- Order No. 1462, the waiting pay date imposed for coning instructions to the Mis- period was waived until June tributions of both rated and sissippi Department of Em- 27. ployment Security (MDES) Further extending financial been suspended and moved to further relieve undue bur-support of Mississippians out to July 31, 2020. dens caused by the pandem- of work due to COVID-19, ic. This new executive or- the Governor is increasing and contribution payments der replaces the Governor's the \$40 earning allowance to from March 8, 2020 to July initial unemployment order, \$200 from May 3, 2020 until 31, 2020 are suspended. Executive Order No. 1462, June 27, 2020. which began the process of expediting payments to un- struggling under the weight work because of COVID-19, employed Mississippians.

I know most Mississippians to June 27, 2020 on all colenough to get an offer to earn due to overpayments will be 27, 2020. a living, please do not reject reduced to 25% from March it. I do not want you to wake 29, 2020 until June 27, 2020. ments from March 8, 2020 to up in August with no job to Tate Reeves.

Governor Reeves nounced his new executive clude:

the unemployment benefits order, Governor Reeves is charges to both rated and provided to help Mississippi waiving the one-week wait- reimbursable workers and their families ing period to receive unem- accounts are waived from Working to support Missis- claims filed from March 8, 2020. Interest will not be ac-

employers Supporting of COVID-19, Governor "There is no real govern- Reeves has also waived any

Additional updates under June 27, 2020 are suspended, return to," said Governor Executive Order No. 1481 and individuals are not reto support Mississippi's em-quired to report in-person to an- ployers and workforce in- help limit transmission.

For Employers Any charges related to In this latest executive COVID-19 and associated employers' ployment benefits for all March 8, 2020 to June 27,

> The First Quarter 2020 reimbursable employers has

> Penalties for late reporting

For Workers

Those unable to search for including because they have contracted the virus, have ment replacement for a job. interest from April 1, 2020 been under quarantine, or have had their movements are ready and eager to work. lection activities suspended restricted, will be interpreted Please do not let the window under the Executive Order. as such for claims filed bepass you by. If you are lucky The offset of future benefits tween March 8, 2020 to June Work registration require-