

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

Press Release
The Delta Regional Authority (DRA), in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the U.S Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA), announced April 30 the availability of approximately \$29.2 million in a second round of grant

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

Press Release
Atlantic hurricane season starts on June 1, 2020. Now, during Mississippi’s Hurricane Preparedness Week, May 3-9, 2020, is the time to get ready. This year we must take extra precautions because of coronavirus (COVID-19). Consider additional supplies you may need to protect yourself and your family. Purchase Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) like masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectants and add them to your “Go Bag” in case you must evacuate because of a storm. Go Bag contents should also include the following:

- Cash: If the power goes out, credit cards won’t work. Keep cash on hand for replenishing supplies.
- Medications: Pharmacies might be closed, and hospitals could be overwhelmed. It is imperative that you pack

funding for the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Initiative. “Within the DRA footprint live some of the most resilient and hard-working people in our great nation, and this is seen in the innovative, industry-driven investments brought to life through the WORC grant initiative,” said DRA Federal Co-Chair- any necessary medications and assume you may not have access to refills for several days.

- A battery-powered radio: If electricity is out and cell towers are down, this is the best way to know what’s happening.
- A gallon of water for every family member and pet: Widespread power outages could make tap water unsafe to drink.
- Important documents: Social Security cards, passports, birth certificates, driver’s licenses and more could all be lost or destroyed in a flood, wildfire or any natural disaster. Keep copies of these documents in a waterproof container or digital image saved online. Include a copy of your insurance policies so you can quickly file a claim once the danger has passed.

“As we continue to social distance because of COV-

man Chris Caldwell. “DRA is providing an opportunity for rural communities to strengthen their workforce pipelines and continue upward economic mobility by giving access to these critical resources, and we are excited to see the growth of our region through more impactful projects from this next round of investments.”

ID-19, consider where you would go if you had to evacuate because of a storm,” said Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. “Mississippi storm shelters are practicing social distancing. Find out where you could safely go, what you would need to bring with you, and create a communication plan with your family so everyone understands what to do.”

Evacuations are more common than people realize. Make yourself familiar with your community’s evacuation zones, so you will know exactly where to go.

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, contact your insurance agent or

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

Press Release
On Monday, May 11, Governor Tate Reeves announced efforts to extend the unemployment benefits provided to help Mississippi workers and their families hard-hit by COVID-19. Working to support Mississippi’s dedicated workforce, Governor Reeves signed a new executive order updating instructions to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) to further relieve undue burdens caused by the pandemic. This new executive order replaces the Governor’s initial unemployment order, Executive Order No. 1462, which began the process of expediting payments to unemployed Mississippians. “There is no real government replacement for a job. I know most Mississippians are ready and eager to work. Please do not let the window pass you by. If you are lucky enough to get an offer to earn a living, please do not reject it. I do not want you to wake up in August with no job to return to,” said Governor Tate Reeves. Governor Reeves an-

nounced his new executive order at his daily press briefing. In this latest executive order, Governor Reeves is waiving the one-week waiting period to receive unemployment benefits for all claims filed from March 8, 2020 to December 26, 2020. Under the initial Executive Order No. 1462, the waiting period was waived until June 27. Further extending financial support of Mississippians out of work due to COVID-19, the Governor is increasing the \$40 earning allowance to \$200 from May 3, 2020 until June 27, 2020. Additional updates under Executive Order No. 1481 to support Mississippi’s employers and workforce in-

clude: **For Employers**
Any charges related to COVID-19 and associated charges to both rated and reimbursable employers’ accounts are waived from March 8, 2020 to June 27, 2020. Interest will not be accrued during this period. The First Quarter 2020 pay date imposed for contributions of both rated and reimbursable employers has been suspended and moved to July 31, 2020. Penalties for late reporting and contribution payments from March 8, 2020 to July 31, 2020 are suspended. **For Workers**
Those unable to search for work because of COVID-19, including because they have contracted the virus, have been under quarantine, or have had their movements restricted, will be interpreted as such for claims filed between March 8, 2020 to June 27, 2020. Work registration requirements from March 8, 2020 to June 27, 2020 are suspended, and individuals are not required to report in-person to help limit transmission.

Under this Funding Opportunity 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 all-discipline 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 community of scholars in service to others.”

view toward assisting eligible communities in diversifying their economies and expanding and diversifying partnerships by investing in local strategies developed by regional partners. ETA will award those applicants that align and integrate workforce development activities with existing state, regional, or community development strategies. Ranging from \$150,000 to \$1.5 million, the grants can also help serve those receiving employment and training services from organizations in regions affected by the opioid crisis. Those eligible for WORC grants include: State, county, city, township, or special district governments; State or local workforce development boards; Regional organizations; independent school districts; Public, state-controlled, or private institutions of higher education; Indian/Native American tribal

governments (Federally and other than Federally Recognized); Indian/Native American tribally designated organizations; Public or Indian housing organizations; Non-profit organizations; Hispanic-serving institutions; Tribally-controlled colleges and universities; and Historically black colleges and universities. To complement the federal partnership, DRA will host pre-award technical assistance webinars, offer post-award technical assistance to grantees, and make an additional \$1.5 million in grants available in July 2020 through the Delta Workforce Program. Potential applicants are encouraged to visit www.dra.gov/workforce for more information and resources. For additional information on grant eligibility and how to apply, please visit grants.gov.

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

2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Lexington

PWS# 0260012

April 2020

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Robin McCrory at 662.417.0167. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Lexington City Hall.

Our water source is from two wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the City of Lexington have received a lower to moderate susceptibility ranking to contamination.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2019. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2019, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contamination.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/MCL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants								
10. Barium	N	2018*	.0157	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2015/17*	.2	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
16. Fluoride**	N	2018*	.47	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
17. Lead	N	2015/17*	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection By-Products								
81. HAAs	N	2019	5	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
82. THM5 [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2019	7.79	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2019	1	.33 - 1.65	mg/L	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Unregulated Contaminants								
Sodium	N	2019	85000	57000 - 65000	PPB	NONE	NONE	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.

Treatment Technique				
TT Violation	Explanation	Duration of Violation	Corrective Actions	Health Effects Language
Ground Water Rule	Failure to Take Corrective Action Within Required Timeframe	09/2016 - 12/2018	The system has completed corrective actions and is no longer in violation of this rule.	Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2019.
** Fluoride level is routinely adjusted to the MS State Dept of Health's recommended level of 0.6 - 1.2 mg/L.
As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, the EPA has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. We did complete the monitoring requirements for bacteriological sampling that showed no elevated levels. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/leadwater/read>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7592 if you wish to have your water tested.

Significant Deficiencies
Monitoring and Reporting of Compliance Data Violations:
During a sanitary survey conducted on 2/27/2019, the Mississippi State Department of Health cited the following significant deficiency(s):
Inadequate internal cleaning/maintenance of storage tanks
Corrective Actions: This system is currently under a lateral Compliance Agreement to have the deficiency corrected by 6/30/2020.

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", the CITY OF LEXINGTON is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 6. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 ppm was 61%.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The City of Lexington works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.