



**Will there be a Big Black River Festival this year? See West Report ON PAGE 5**



**RECIPE FOR SHRIMP SCAMPI SEE PAGE 12**

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**HOLMES COUNTY**

# HERALD

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020 ONE SECTION LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095 VOLUME 62 - NUMBER 22

## Governor Tate Reeves extends Safer At Home order to continue flattening the curve *Holmes County named hot spot for COVID-19 cases*

**Press Release**  
On Friday, May 22, Governor Tate Reeves announced the next steps for Mississippi to continue safely reopening the state's economy and getting people back to work while protecting public health.

In a new executive order, Governor Reeves extended the Safer At Home order and accompanying amendments for another week until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1 to continue flattening the curve while allowing Mississippi-

plians to safely get back to work and move around their communities.

Executive Order No. 1488 also adds Holmes County to the list of hotspot counties under additional social distancing measures to help slow the spread within their communities.

"We cannot ask the people of Mississippi to do more than they are able to do for a sustained period of time. Over the past two weeks, we have steadily opened up more and more of our econo-

my. That is good and right. It is necessary. There are very, very few businesses still closed. There will still be some guidelines in place for businesses—but we will be out of the business of closing down anybody," said Governor Tate Reeves.

Governor Reeves also issued another executive order to begin safely reopening outdoor recreational facilities to give Mississippians an outlet to take care of their mental health. Detailing strict social distancing guidelines, the new executive order takes effect at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 25 until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, coinciding with the new deadline for the Safer At Home order.

The strict social distancing guidelines implemented under Executive Order No. 1487 to safely reopen outdoor recreational facilities include:

### OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

For businesses/facilities:

- Before they can reopen, the entire outdoor park must be deep-cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized top to bottom, including areas not open to the public.
- All outdoor parks are expected to take every step necessary to implement the regulations, orders, and guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health and CDC to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Waiting areas and lines must mark spots at least 6 feet apart to ensure social distancing. Employees must be stationed there to make sure social distancing is followed.

## ABC's Diane Sawyer special report features HCCSD

**Press Release**

Employees of the Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) received national attention, via a television broadcast this past weekend.

In an ABC news special report titled "Our New Reality," hosted by award winning journalist Diane Sawyer, team members in the food service and transportation departments were spotlighted for their extraordinary hard work during the COVID-19, national pandemic.

Focused primarily on healthcare workers, the show explored how the virus began and where the world goes next. However, because of the contributions of the HCCSD Food Service and Transportation employees, the show made a stop in Holmes County and showcased team members preparing and delivering 6000 meals to students affected by the closing of schools.

Dr. James L. Henderson, superintendent of schools, said "It is rewarding and serves as confirmation to what I've said many times



**Dr. James Henderson (pictured second from right) helps prepare meals for delivery. (Photo Submitted)**

before, we have some of the best employees in our district. This is why I advocated recently for salary increases for all of our non-certified employees."

The employees made major sacrifices to ensure the students who rely on school breakfasts and lunches are fed while they engage in distance learning at home.

"While we may be the poorest county in the country, our community is strong," Henderson said. "Once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I knew we had to provide meals for our children. Transportation and food service workers galvanized around the com-

munity to feed the children and we've been delivering meals since March 17."

The special broadcast aired on Tuesday, May 26.

According to ABC, Sawyer interviews scientists about the race to find a vaccine and profiles essential workers by asking about their fears and bravery as front line workers during this challenging time. It takes a close look at where we, as a nation, are now, what we have learned about ourselves and our country, and what's next.

"Our New Reality: A Diane Sawyer Special" aired on May 26 on the ABC network.

## Memorial Day Remembrance



The *Holmes County Herald* asked on its Facebook page for our readers to submit a photo of a military serviceman or servicewoman from their family in honor of Memorial Day. The *Herald* received a response from one faithful reader, Cathy Ford. Ford submitted a photo of her father (pictured above), Sam Simmons. Simmons served in the U.S. Air Force. His hometown is Yazoo City but he retired in Pickens. Simmons was 23 at the time of enlisting in 1945, rank - Private First Class and served through 1947. Simmons passed away on May 23, 2018 at age 95.

(Photo Submitted)

- No more than 50% of the outdoor park's capacity.
- Outdoor parks must post signage at each entrance stating no customer with a fever or COVID-19 symptoms are allowed in.
- Equipment must be rearranged and/or deactivated to ensure at least 6 feet between customers.
- All high-touch areas must be sanitized at least once every two hours.
- Hand sanitizer must be placed at all entrances.
- Food services are allowed, following restaurant guidelines under Executive Order No. 1478.

For employees:

- All employees will be screened daily at the beginning of their shifts, including asking whether they have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have they had a fever in the last 48 hours.
- All employees must be provided training on how to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Face coverings must be provided to all employees. Employees are required to wear that face covering throughout their shift and clean or replace daily.

For customers:

- Customers must be

screened upon entry into the outdoor park.

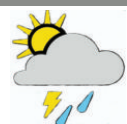
• Customers must sanitize their hands upon entry and when moving between rides or equipment.

### SCHOOLS & SPORTS COMPLEXES

• Schools may open weight rooms and training facilities for use by students, following gym guidelines under Executive Order No. 1480.

• Team practices at outdoor sports complexes and multi-field complexes and schools' outdoor practices are allowed to resume, following outdoor recreational activities guidelines under Executive Order No. 1478.

50¢ Single Copy



**Thursday**  
Scattered T'Storms  
81/64  
Precip. Chance  
50%



**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy  
84/65  
Precip. Chance  
20%



**Saturday**  
Mostly Sunny  
84/62  
Precip. Chance  
10%



**Sunday**  
Sunny  
84/62  
Precip. Chance  
10%



**Monday**  
Sunny  
87/66  
Precip. Chance  
0%



**Tuesday**  
P.M. Showers  
88/68  
Precip. Chance  
30%



**Wednesday**  
Mostly Sunny  
91/69  
Precip. Chance  
10%

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