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THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

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LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 62 - NUMBER 31

Central Holmes' Womack steps up as head football coach

Staff Report

Twenty-five year veteran coach, Mitch Womack, is a true Mississippi Delta native. He's coached at Washington School for 15 years and Saint Joseph for five years, both in Greenville, also at Ray Brooks High School and Gentry High School in Indi-

anola for one year each. He is a 1989 graduate of Saint Joseph and earned his college degree at Delta State in Cleveland in 1994. He stayed at Delta State where he began his football career as a student graduate assistant for three years.

Womack will be taking the

reins as head football coach for Central Holmes Christian School. The position will be Womack's first stint as head football coach.

Womack and his wife Julia, four children, Madison, Lane, Addison and Joseph, fell in love with the Lexington community, which made

it an easy decision to relocate from Leland to Holmes County.

This year marks the second year at Central Holmes for Womack. Last year he served as assistant head coach and defensive coordinator.



MITCH WOMACK

Womack will be stepping up as head coach this year.

He is looking forward to the upcoming year as being a regrowing year. Womack said his team was young and

needed a lot of extra work. Football practice started this past Monday (July 27). "We graduated a lot of talented and great seniors last year," said Womack. "This year's team is small and there are many young kids...But we are expecting great things. The students are excited about practicing and playing."

Womack met earlier in

the year with the incoming players on June 1. Summer conditioning has been a top priority since then.

"We also have a talented group of energetic, young coaches, Ty Dean, Caleb Joiner and Justin Harrell," Womack added.

Apart from coaching, Womack will be instructing students at the school in Mississippi History, World Geography, U.S. History, Economics and Government.

As a veteran coach, Womack, his wife and children understand the importance of a home/work balance and in that often there are

(Continued on page 7.)

In-class, virtual options offered for public school re-entry models

By Matthew Breazeale

The Holmes County Consolidated School District will offer blended in-class and virtual models for students to return this upcoming school year.

Information posted on the district's web site lists different options parents can

choose for their children's instruction.

Labeled under "Virtual/Traditional Blended Model," options include, PreK-Grade 3, in-person, at-school class sessions for five hours each day. Instruction will focus on numeracy and literacy. Families may choose online

virtual learning for PreK through third grades.

For grades 4 - 8, math, ELA, science and social studies coursework would be offered through the Online Virtual Learning platform 5.5 hours per day. Students would meet online with teachers in Google Classrooms for daily instruction.

For grades 9 - 12, "Edgenuity" courses will be offered with monitoring and coaching from teachers for

(Continued on page 4.)

Mississippi could lose millions if residents don't participate in 2020 Census

Mississippi Today

Earlier this year, Mississippi spent under a half of a million dollars to increase participation in the 2020 Census, the count of every living person that helps determine federal funding. To date, less than 60% of Mississippi residents have completed the census, meaning the state is at risk of losing millions in federal funding if the participation rate does not increase.

With only 57.2% of the population completing the census as of July 16, "this puts the state at risk for losing millions in federal funding over the next 10 years," a news release stated. This figure is 5% less than the national average. Of the respondents, 34.8% of Mississippians completed the cen-

sus via internet.

The census is a decennial count of every living person in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the five United States territories. It's important because it is used to produce data sets to determine how billions of federal dollars are distributed to more than 100 programs like Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), National School Lunch Program, and infrastructure, to name a few.

The census can be completed three ways: by internet, mail, or by calling 844-330-2020 (toll-free).

In 2010, the self-response rate in Mississippi was 61.3%. Over the last ten years, Mississippi lost nearly \$14 billion for children five and under due to an under-

count in the 2010 Census, according to Mississippi KIDS COUNT.

In 2017, Mississippi received \$10 billion for 55 federal programs based on 2010 Census data, according to a research project from the George Washington University Institute of Public Policy.

This program, Counting for Your Dollars 2020, examines the role of the census in distributing money to federal programs. California, ranking No. 1, received \$115 billion in 2017.

In the state, the top 10 counties with the lowest self-response rates include:

- Smith - 44.1%
- Noxubee - 43.6%
- Carroll - 43.2%
- Tunica - 42.3%
- Jefferson - 42.4%
- Jasper - 37.9%
- Franklin - 36.9%
- Tallahatchie - 32.4%
- Issaquena - 31.9%
- Wilkinson - 30.5%

Gov imposes bar restrictions due to 'drunk, careless folks'

Holmes County added to mandated mask list

Associated Press

Mississippi's governor is setting new restrictions on bars and social gatherings to curb the spread of the coronavirus among a group he called "young, drunk, careless folks."

"Our bars must look more like restaurants and less like mobs of COVID-19 spread," Gov. Tate Reeves said during a Friday, July 24, afternoon media briefing. Reeves said cases of coronavirus have been rising steadily in people in their 20s who are not being responsible under the current regulations.

Right now, bars and restaurants can be open in the state if they serve only 50% of their capacity for patrons. Under the new rules, they can still be open at 50% capacity but people will need to be seated to order alcohol. Additionally, alcohol sales will cut off at 11 p.m.

"We know that's when these crowds, primarily of young people, throw social distancing out the window," Reeves said.

Statewide, crowds will be



GOV. REEVES

limited to 10 people indoors and 20 outdoors, a rule previously regulating only the counties with the highest numbers of new cases.

"It is no safer to throw a party in a parking lot than it is to go to a bar," Reeves said. "We just can't be allowing that to happen right now because it is a death sentence for many who come into contact with those who are partying."

The governor also added six counties to his list of 23 in the state where people must wear masks in public. The counties of Calhoun, Holmes, Lamar, Montgomery, Winston and Yalobusha

joined the list because they have seen increasing rates of coronavirus spread.

There was also major news for Mississippi families announced Friday: Jackson Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Errick Greene said students will learn virtually for the entire fall semester, a diversion from an earlier plan in the district to try a mix of in-person and online instruction. JPS is the second-largest school district in the state.

Mississippi has a population of about 3 million. The Health Department said Thursday evening that the state has had at least 49,663 confirmed cases and at least 1,463 deaths from COVID-19 as of Wednesday evening. That's an increase of 1,610 confirmed cases and 28 deaths from numbers reported the day before.

At least 3,300 cases of the virus have been confirmed in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, with at least 680 virus-related deaths in those facilities, the department said.

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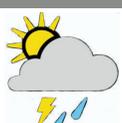
Thursday
 A.M. T'Storms
 88/75
 Precip. Chance
 50%



Friday
 P.M. T'Storms
 91/74
 Precip. Chance
 40%



Saturday
 Partly Cloudy
 88/70
 Precip. Chance
 20%



Sunday
 Isolated T'Storms
 87/68
 Precip. Chance
 30%



Monday
 Partly Cloudy
 87/68
 Precip. Chance
 20%



Tuesday
 Mostly Sunny
 88/67
 Precip. Chance
 20%



Wednesday
 Mostly Sunny
 89/68
 Precip. Chance
 10%

How to reach us

PHONE • 834-1151

FAX • 834-1074

EMAIL

hcherald@gmail.com



8 08805 93485 4