

# State auditor releases annual exceptions report

Money returned to taxpayers increased by over 350%

**Press Release**  
State Auditor Shad White’s office returned over \$5.6 million to taxpayers last fiscal year. According to the Audit Exceptions Report for Fiscal Year 2020, released today, the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor more than tripled the amount of money it returned to taxpayers compared to last year.  
“This Exceptions Report chronicles a year of hard work by the men and women of the Office of the State Auditor. We continue to build on the strong foundation I was handed when I took this job. The investigators, attorneys, accountants, and staffers of the Office deserve all the credit for this body of work,” said Auditor White.  
State law requires the Auditor’s office to publish an Exceptions Report every year. An audit “exception” is a violation of the law or an accounting error resulting in the

misspending of public funds. Not all exceptions listed in the report are criminal violations. All new demands from the last fiscal year and also updates on old, unsettled cases are included in the report.  
“In addition to the amount of money we’ve recovered for taxpayers, the subjects of our investigations have been sentenced to hundreds of years of prison time since I came into office. That tough action will prevent future theft of public funds,” added White.  
The report – organized by county so taxpayers can easily search for cases near them – can be found online at the Auditor’s website under the “Reports” tab.  
Suspected fraud or misappropriation can be reported to the Auditor’s office online any time by clicking the red button at [www.osa.ms.gov](http://www.osa.ms.gov) or via telephone during normal business hours at 1-(800)-321-1275.

# Some Mississippians eligible for extended benefits program

**Press Release**  
On July 28, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) announced a listing of qualifying factors to determine eligibility for the Extended Benefits (EB) program, including an explanation on when the Extended Benefits are payable.  
The EB program was established to pay benefits during periods of high unemployment to workers, including federal civilian employees and ex-military personnel who exhausted their basic entitlement to regular state and federal unemployment benefits.  
The State of Mississippi triggered the Extended Benefits on May 17, 2020. Extended Benefits are payable only after exhaustion of regular unemployment compensation and emergency unemployment compensation.  
To qualify for benefits, the individual must have:  
• Exhausted all rights to regular Unemployment Compensation (UC) under state law;  
• No rights to regular UC with respect to any unemployment compensation law of another state;  
• Exhausted Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC);  
• Wages in the base period (with respect to the regular UC claim that exhausted) that include 40 times the weekly benefit amount;  
• No disqualifications that would prevent the individual from being eligible for extended benefits; and  
• Have at least one week in the benefit year that begins in an EB eligibility period.  
Individuals who are poten-

IN AND AROUND  
**LEXINGTON**  
BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



There was a car accident up Highway 17 one day last week. The lady that talked to me said it was at or on the bridge by the old house of Tim and Henretta Green. She said the lady looked like she had passed out. According to the lady I was talking too; some children were in the car. One boy was just sitting on the ground. He seemed to be around 10-12 years old. I saw the emergency ambulance and sheriff’s cars go up the road.

tially eligible will receive a written notification.  
A link to this information can be found at <https://mdes.ms.gov/extbenefits>

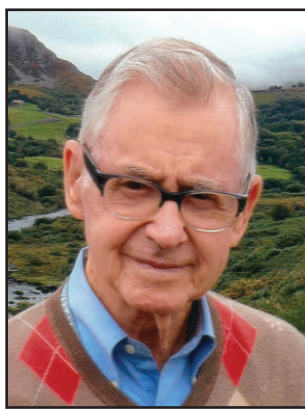
Keep my brother Raymond in your prayers. The doctors are working on him again. He has a low heart rate. They did a bone marrow test. But he is in good spirits when it comes to having fun. Emma Carnegie told me to tell Raymond she was fishing and catching a lot of fish, 40 to 50. He told me to tell Emma he could not walk well enough to go fishing. But he got a friend that goes fishing and catches 90 to 91 fish. He said all he has to do is cook them and eat them. In his healthy years he was an avid fisherman and hunter.

Holmes Countians and others, now it’s mandatory that we wear a mask. Let’s not be hardheaded. According to the good book, the Bible, obedience is better than a sacrifice. I’d rather be obedient than to sacrifice my life due to COVID-19. Thank you to the people that are displaying a red bow to signify they are praying for the COVID-19 virus to clear up.  
Churches, please be safe, use hand sanitizer and check people’s temperature before they enter the church. Christians can get the virus too.



# Obituary





**PAUL OWEN SPRINKLE**  
Paul Owen Sprinkle of Clinton MS, caring husband and loving father passed from his earthly life on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at the age of 95. Paul was born on October 14, 1924 to Lafe and Dottie Sprinkle in the southern Indiana town of Edwardsport.  
As a child growing up during the Great Depression he learned the lessons of hard work and thrift to not only survive, but thrive in his chosen career of farming. As WW II engulfed the world it called for so many sacrifices to the people of America. He learned that his country needed not only soldiers, but also farmers. So, with more determination than ever, he continued to farm and succeed with his father and brothers. On March 18, 1944, Paul married his child-

hood sweetheart Barbara Jean Frazier. Together they raised one daughter, Sherry Lea. It was soon after he had started his family that Paul began an additional career in real estate in Vincennes, Indiana. Due to his dedication to hard work, diligence and honesty he excelled in this endeavor as well as continuing his first love of farming. Because of the respect he earned in every community in which he lived, he served on numerous boards of agricultural, business and financial organizations from Knox county Indiana to Clay and Holmes counties in Mississippi. In 1962, Paul, Barbara and Sherry moved to West Point, Mississippi to try his hand at southern farming. Once again he was very successful in this venture developing “Pasheba Farm” near West Point, Mississippi into a showplace of beauty and production. Paul was well known for his ability to take a marginal tract of land and through relentless efforts in soil and water conservation practices, as well as good farming and hard work, turn the property into a productive well organized farm. In 1971, due to health concerns for Barbara, Paul and Barbara returned to Vincennes.

While there, Paul couldn’t resist the lure of the land so he purchased and farmed land near Champagne, Illinois. However, his love for Mississippi and the South called him back, so he returned and developed yet another farm in Holmes county and once again became a well respected member of the Lexington Mississippi business and agricultural community.  
It can be said with certainty that Paul loved God, loved his family and he loved the land. He was a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson. It can also be said that everyone who knew Paul loved and respected him and are thankful for his full and generous life.  
Paul is preceded in death by wife, Barbara and two brothers, Ralph and Mike Sprinkle. He is also preceded in death by his second wife, Allison Burchfield Sprinkle of Kosciusko and third wife, Louise D. Sprinkle of Jackson. He is survived by his present wife, Sheryl Steele Sprinkle of Clinton, MS, his daughter, Sherry Lea Dallas (Rick), granddaughter, Barbara Dallas Cunningham (Scott) of Madison, MS and great grandchildren, Dallas and Ava Cunningham, both students at Mississippi State University.

A private graveside service will be held at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Lexington, Mississippi.  
The family would like to express their appreciation to all the caregivers at Beau Ridge Memory Care and Brookdale Senior Living, Clinton for their excellent care.



The days are moving ahead at a steady pace. While 2020 has been unpredictable and unbelievable, one thing has been consistent and unchanging. It’s each day’s twenty-four-hour cycle.  
Nothing has slowed it down, sped it up, or altered its guaranteed coming and going. As a result, deer season is dragging me one day closer to its arrival. I’m in full preparation mode. Stands are being put up, cameras are being placed, and feeders set where allowed. I’m also getting ready to disc up a field for late summer planting. Since I live on the boarder of three states, I am constantly double-checking seasons, limits, and regulations. It’s just how it is around here. Except for an early Tennessee velvet-antler hunt, Kentucky is always first to welcome hunters to the woods. Normally they welcome us when it’s too hot to go. So, unless I know there’s a big one perusing the area, I wait until cooler weather is the rule. I’ve noticed how preparation brings new excitement and expectation.

At the end of every year, it’s just the opposite. Toward the end of each season, high hopes are rare, and that means we get impatient and uncommitted. But beginning about now, things change. We’ve forgotten the pain of childbirth and are ready to have another baby. (At least that’s what I’m told the child bearers do) And it doesn’t take much to renew our passion. Just the other day, I moved a tree stand thirty yards and I felt like I had just increased my odds by a 100 percent. I don’t know if I’ll be able to pass on all those

ten-pointers, just to get to that twelve!  
I hope you are thankful sometimes our memories are short. I hope you’re thankful pain may run deep, but most of the time it doesn’t run long. And I hope you also see that sometimes, the smallest tweak, can bring about a renewed excitement. We need this right now. Some of you have suffered some losses lately. Your business and perhaps your family have experienced some real pain from the worldwide pandemic. You may be covered and cornered by confusion. I understand. But




**HOPEWELL M.B.C.**  
Hopewell M.B. Church will host a LOVE PARADE/22nd Year Pastoral Anniversary on Sunday, August 16, at 3 p.m. Line-up is at 2:45 p.m. at Sequoia’s in Durant (Next to Roby Dental Clinic). The parade will travel to Lee Street in Durant. For more information call 662-289-5747 or 662-739-7720.  
8-6,13

**ADDICTION HELP**  
Narconon reminds families that abuse of heroin and opioid drugs has become a national health crisis. Learn to recognize the signs of heroin abuse and get your loved one help if they are at risk. Call today for free screenings or referrals at 1-800-431-1754.  
8-6,13

know this. God works in real time, and his promises are as consistent and certain as my upcoming deer season. And here is one promise God gave Jeremiah to give to us. “Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.” So, tomorrow when you get up, don’t look at the past more than a few seconds. Its pain is not meant to keep you from the next blessing. It’s only there to remind you of what God brought you through to get it.  
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