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# HERALD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

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## Suspect located in Lexington rape investigation

**By Matthew Breazeale**

The Lexington Police Department has located a suspect wanted in connection to the rape of a Lexington woman on January 24, 2019.

Timothy Brown, a convicted felon, was located in Detroit, Michigan, after investigation by Officer Sam Dobbs. Brown assaulted a 73-year-old resident in her home on Westwood Avenue in Lexington last year.

The crime was reported to the Lexington Police Department by officials at University of Mississippi Medical Center on Friday, January 25, 2019, after the victim sought medical treatment for the attack.



**TIMOTHY BROWN**

As of press time Tuesday, August 11, Brown was in the process of being extradited to Lexington. Lexington Mayor Robin (Continued on page 5.)

## 'Punch in the face, stab in the back': Legislature overrides Gov. Reeves' veto of education funding bill

**Mississippi Today**

The Republican-led Mississippi Legislature on Monday overrode a veto by Republican Gov. Tate Reeves of most of the public education budget — the first time since 2002 that lawmakers have undone a gubernatorial veto.

"It's the law. It's the law. It's the law," House Speaker Philip Gunn said. "We can engage in name calling and in slanderous comments, but the bottom line is what does the law say? We are trying to follow the constitution."

Reeves, for his part, chalked it up to politics, claiming some members of the House are "trying to get a pound of flesh from me" for political reasons. The governor declared victory from lawmakers, who approved a teacher bonus plan whose

absence had prompted his veto in the first place.

"If individual House members want to punch me in the face, or stab me in the back, that's fine as long as teachers get that money," Reeves said.

Gunn and House Pro Tem Jason White still have a lawsuit pending over Reeves' partial vetoes of the education budget and of items in a measure spending federal coronavirus relief money for health care providers.

In the House, the veto override vote was 109-6. In the Senate, the vote was 41-1. A two-thirds majority is required to override a gubernatorial veto.

While there were six no votes, no one in the House argued against the override, which was done promptly soon after lawmakers recon-

vened.

In the Senate, negotiations took much longer, and the vote came after no debate on Monday evening after a long delay.

Reeves, in his first year as governor, said he issued the partial veto of the education budget because the bill did not fund the School Recognition Program, which provides bonuses to teachers in top performing and improving school districts. About 23,000 teachers are slated to receive the bonuses.

Legislative leaders said not funding the program was an oversight and could be corrected at a later date without the governor vetoing the legislation. Reeves said he believed the veto was necessary to ensure the teachers received their funds.

In addition to overriding

## Over 500 people tested for COVID in experimental initiative

**Associated Press**

More than 500 people in one of the poorest counties in Mississippi were tested for the coronavirus by the state Department of Health over the past week as part of a new experimental initiative to slow the spread of the virus by community transmission.

State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs said medical professionals went in with the goal to test every resident in Lexington, the Holmes County seat, where 2,000 people live. By identifying those who are asymptomatic, Dobbs said, officials hoped to limit cases of the virus being passed unknowingly from person to person.

"We didn't quite get every resident, but if we got 500, I was going to consider it a success, and we surpassed that," he said Monday.

A total of 561 people were tested in Lexington, 14 of whom weren't previously aware they had been infected with the coronavirus. The majority of those 14 people were asymptomatic.

Department of Health officials tested all nursing home residents on Thursday and

other residents on Friday and Saturday. Dobbs said investigators within the state department of health are working on contact tracing to test individuals who came into contact with the 14 who tested positive.

They also offered free antibody testing as part of the effort, and 235 people selected the option to get tested for antibodies. Of those individuals, 17 tested positive for antibodies.

Holmes County has been hard-hit by the coronavirus pandemic. It's one of the smallest counties in the state, and it's seen 900 cases of coronavirus, according to the Department of Health. That's around 5% of the population.

The Mississippi Department of Health partnered with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Guard and the University of Mississippi Medical Center to provide the tests.

In addition, the state Department of Health released new data on schools Monday: In Mississippi schools, there have been 19 cases among students and 15 among employees across

22 school districts. Officials did not specify whether or not those who tested positive were exposed while at school.

As K-12 schools are grappling with how to deal with coronavirus outbreaks in their communities, Dobbs said he is worried about outbreaks among college students, who are returning to campuses across the state. Gov. Tate Reeves asked police and campus leaders to be "diligent" about enforcing mask mandates and social distancing protocols.

The classroom is one thing, Reeves said. Bars are another area of concern.

"I don't want to shut down bars in the state of Mississippi. I don't want to shut down bars in college towns. But, if it becomes clear and evident to me that the bars are not adhering to the laws that we have put in place ... then I'm going to do what I have to do to slow down this virus," Reeves said.

Meanwhile, the fall sports calendar is still in flux.

On the subject, Reeves said he is likely to make an announcement in the (Continued on page 23.)



**Gov. Tate Reeves answers questions during a press conference concerning the coronavirus pandemic. (Eric J. Shelton/Mississippi Today, Report For America)**

the governor Monday, lawmakers passed a separate bill for the School Recognition Program on Monday night.

The bill will be funded by pulling \$28 million from a capital projects fund.

Reeves' partial veto of the

budget for education essentially put in question the flow of all state funds — more than \$2.2 billion — to local school districts. Reeves, relying on an official opinion from former Attorney General Jim Hood, said he had the authority to send state funds to the local school districts in the absence of a legislative appropriation. The official opinion said the state Constitution mandates the funding of local school districts regardless of whether there is a legislative appropriation.

Gunn said the Legislature's recent battles with Reeves (Continued on page 23.)

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<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Scattered T'Storms	Scattered T'Storms	Scattered T'Storms	Isolated T'Storms	Isolated T'Storms	A.M. Thunderstorms	Isolated T'Storms
90/73	91/73	91/72	93/72	92/69	88/67	87/66
Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance	Precip. Chance
50%	40%	60%	30%	30%	40%	30%

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