

# Make safety a priority for hunting season

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MSU Extension Service

With dove season opening Sept. 5 and the first deer season opening Oct. 1, many would-be hunters are gearing up and making sure everything is safe and legal for the upcoming hunts.

Despite a state population of just under 3 million people, Mississippi is home to nearly half a million hunters, according to the most recent statistics. With so many men, women and children in the woods with bows and guns, safety is extremely important.

Bronson Strickland, wildlife specialist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, said the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have given more people than ever before the time to hunt, especially as outdoor activities are ideal for this

time of social distancing. "During turkey season this past spring, some states reported increased hunting and harvest because some workplaces were closed," Strickland said. "All public lands should be open for hunting this fall and winter. Being outdoors is one of the safest activities you could engage in, assuming you take precautions if you are with other hunters."

Knowing what precautions to take is part of the hunter education certificate required of all people born on or after Jan. 1, 1972, who want to buy a Mississippi hunting license. This course must be approved by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks -- MDWFP. A hunter education certification earned in Mississippi is accepted in all U.S. states, provinces and

countries that have mandatory hunter education laws.

"With firearms and tree stands, accidents can happen quickly and can often be deadly," Strickland said. "This educational program is designed to reduce accidents, especially for those people new to firearms and hunting."

Whether they are hunting on private land, at a hunting club or on public land, the course teaches students how the most common accidents occur and how to avoid them. The course reviews the mechanics of firearms, including how they work and how to use them safely.

Hunter education certification is now offered completely online. Visit <https://www.hunter-ed.com> for more information.

The only people not required to pass the hunter safety course to get a hunting license are those hunting on lands titled in their own names.

The MDWFP sets all hunting seasons and bag limits, and it is responsible for enforcing hunting laws in the state. Deer hunters need to be aware of specific regulations aimed at limiting the spread of chronic wasting disease -- or CWD -- in white-tailed deer.

According to the MDWFP, CWD was discovered in Mississippi in February 2018.

## IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



Mrs. Jean Ford-Smith passed recently. Her husband passed about a week before she did. Let's keep these families uplifted in prayer.

There was an accident up Highway 17 on Wednesday morning, August 26. Mr. Lee Wright's driver came from up 17 on that morning on his way to take Mr. Wright to his doctor in Jackson. He passed the scene of the accident in

the curve up the highway. People, when it comes to driving, the speed limit and no passing signs should be obeyed.

Now, concerning Mr. Lee, he must have had several procedures or tests done on the same day. He said the doctors almost killed him. He is taking some powerful medicine, but the Lord is still allowing him to be able to get out of his house and go wherever he wants to go.

Fred Horton, of Tchula, went for a medical check-up on Wednesday, August 26. I hope everything went well with him.

Parents, it's school time, so make sure your child/children get their lessons done. Whether it's done online, in the classroom or by lesson-packs, education is important and necessary. If you have to work, leave your child/children with someone that will make them get their lesson. You don't control the coronavirus/COVID-19, but you do control your children.

It's storm, tornado and hurricane season, so check on the elderly people in your community. Make sure they have food, water, flashlights, cellphone and a place to go if they have to evacuate.

Mary Hester is in the hospital on life support. She has been in the hospital for a bout a month or more. Pray that she will be alright. I know you can survive on life support. My brother Raymond stayed on life support

close to three months. Even though he has no kidneys, he's still alive.

Fitzgerald Hester is having a foot problem. Pray that he follows the doctors orders.

I talked to Mrs. Fannie Johnson and Corean Randle. Both of them say they are feeling much better. Mrs. Fannie had surgery and Corean had pneumonia.

Fred Horton of Tchula went to one of his doctors Wednesday for a checkup.

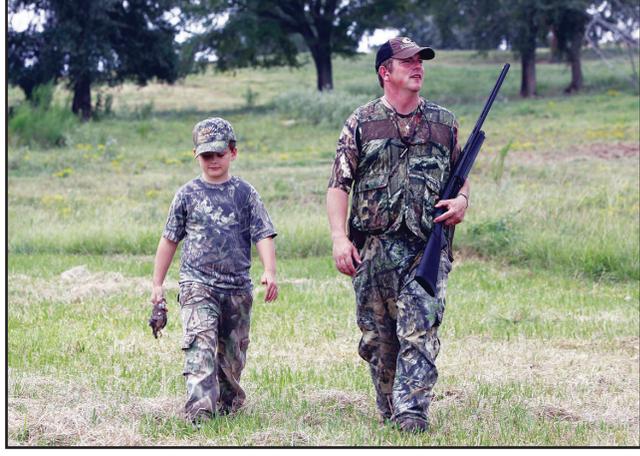
Michael Benson passed recently. Keep the Benson family uplifted in prayer.

Also, Milton "Bro" Thomas passed. He was at Whitfield if I am not mistaken. I know he received mental health care for years. He used to live across the road from me. When he first started being sick, his sister Sam Ella Keys, now deceased, took care of him. When he got where she could not handle him, he was institutionalized.

Curtis Wright came from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to visit his mother and sister in Jackson. While here, he came to Lexington to visit his aunts, Goldia Landfair and Deborah Wright.

On Saturday, August 29, I was sitting on my front porch. I saw a hearse go up Highway 17. It had one car behind it. It looked strange; but I assume the other family members must have already been up 17.

When I tell people I make apple preserves; they tell me they have never heard of it. For those of you that want to try making apple preserves, make it the same way you make pear preserves.



Dove season starts soon in Mississippi, with deer season not far behind. An important part of getting ready for the hunt is completion of a hunter safety education course. (File Photo by MSU Extension Service/Brian Utley)

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