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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020 ONE SECTION LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095 VOLUME 62 - NUMBER 42

M Partner celebrates successful pilot phase in Lexington

Community engagement initiative will continue to improve quality of life in partner communities

University of Mississippi and students at the University of Mississippi, the M Partner initiative has helped spur improvements in health status and educational success in Lexington that promise to serve as steps toward a brighter future for the community.

The university launched M Partner, a community engagement effort that seeks to improve life in Mississippi communities, in 2018. M Partner offers a framework for community and university representatives to pair university resources and expertise with priority projects in partner cities across the state,

and supports institutional efforts to promote healthy and vibrant communities. The inaugural M Partner communities were Charleston, Lexington and New Albany. In Lexington, M Partner led to six academic courses and internships, five special programs and events, three new partnerships established through the North

Mississippi VISTA Project and the involvement of 80 UM students. This interdisciplinary outpouring of support led to Lexington's recognition as a 2019 Healthy Home-town Award winner by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi. These collaborations have (Continued on page 12.)

Central Holmes announces 2020 Homecoming Court



Central Holmes Christian School announced its 2020 Homecoming Court. Homecoming activities are set for Friday, October 16. Ms. Henley Hester, 2019 homecoming queen will crown the 2020 homecoming queen. The 2020 Homecoming court will be presented at Hammett Field on the CHCS campus. The Trojans high school football team (1-6) will face Oak Hill Academy Raiders (1-5) at 7:00 p.m. Pictured above (back row from left): Daynie Parish, Ashlyn Tate, Rylee Sizemore, Aubrey Carr, Mackenzie Ward, Hayley Haffey, Jessie Burton, Cameron Martin, Sadie Angell, Anna Diffey, Lilly Word, Drue Johnson and Claire Tate; First row (from left): Walker Wentworth, Ben Cain, Parker Taylor, Jennings Meeks, Lauren Dean, Reece Walbert, Mitchell Word and Liam Tucker. Pictured at right (back row from left): Lindsey Turner and Audrey Tate; First row (from left): Mathew White, Rylee Lloyd and Haskin Cheatham.

(Photos by Andi Frank/Candice Parish)

County 4-H'ers show champion bovines, heifer at state fair

By Betsy Padgett
Holmes Co. Ext./4-H Agent
This past weekend saw the Mississippi State Fair open in Jackson with Beef Cattle showing on Saturday, October 10, and Sunday, October 11. Holmes County 4-H Exhibitors had their cattle ready.

As with most everything, the pandemic had taken away a number of late summer and early fall shows that these guys exhibited in annu-

ally around the state to hone their skills and break their new animals in to the "show circuit." So, this was the start of the 2020-2021 Livestock show season for many and always a very competitive show.

Showing for Holmes County 4-H were Pearce Edwards, Davian "Bug" Powell, Malachi Williams, and John Hudson Word.

Saturday morning kicked off the Beef Cattle show

with Commercial Heifers for our group. All of the Holmes County Commercial Heifers went "top 10." Bug was the first into the ring showing a young English cross heifer and placing 7th with her. John Hudson Word brought in his older heavier English heifer taking 4th place. Malachi showing his 15-month-old European cross heifer took 3rd place.

Open shows (those livestock shows where adults

and youth compete) were held Friday night (Simmental) and Saturday afternoon (Hereford). In the Simmental Open Show, Pearce Edwards won Reserve Grand Champion with his Percentage Simmental bull. John Hudson placed 2nd with his Simmental heifer in her class. In the Hereford Open show, Bug took Reserve Champion in the Showmanship division.

Sunday was beef showmanship day. The classes were divided according to age divisions. Over 500 youth participated in these classes. The impressive part of this showmanship exhibi-

tion was that of four Holmes County beef cattle exhibitors – all four were pulled from their respective early competition heats to come back for the final winning drive in their age division.

In my memory, this year's success had not before been accomplished by our Beef exhibitors. Bug placed 4th in the 17-year-old division with Pearce in that same group at 10th. John Hudson placed 12th in his 14-year-old division; Malachi, 10th, in his 12-year-old division. Actually, each of these guys had to beat at least 30 to 40 in their divisions to rank where they

did. Another side bar, Pearce and Bug had schooled and worked with John Hudson and Malachi, respectively, to help them reach this level of showmanship success. One more side note – showmanship is exhibitor's display of skill in showing their animal; translation - Holmes has four of the BEST Beef cattle showmen in the state of Mississippi. Congratulations to these hard working young men.

The Beef Cattle show will continue Monday, October 12, and Meat Goats will show Friday and Saturday, (Continued on page 7.)

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