

Week-long winter weather in Holmes County

(Photos Submitted by Readers)



Pictured above, from left: Janie Giles, Reece Vaughn (at top), Fen Anderson and Liza Anderson all play together in the snow and ice covering their trampoline.



Pictured above, from left, Weston and Lydia Killebrew, pose for a photo opportunity in the snow.



Pictured above, Lauren Anderson shows off a frozen disc. Low temperatures recorded in Holmes County included,



Pictured above, from left, John White, Tate McLellan, Mary Presley McLellan, Carlynn White, Mason McLellan, Sara Burden White, and “O” enjoy one last walk in the snow on Sunday, February 21, in West.

SBA reaches \$200 billion milestone in Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program to small businesses and non-profits

Press Release

On February 16, the U.S. Small Business Administration reached a milestone in the success of the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, which has provided U.S. small businesses, non-profits, and agricultural businesses a total of \$200 billion in emergency funding.

“Following the enactment of COVID-19 emergency legislation, the SBA has now provided more than 3.7 million small businesses employing more than 20 mil-

lion people with \$200 billion through the unprecedented COVID-19 EIDL loan program,” Acting Administrator Tami Perriello said. “SBA remains committed to helping small businesses recover from the unprecedented economic effects of COVID-19.”

SBA is still accepting COVID-19 EIDL loan applications as the deadline to apply has been extended to Dec. 31, 2021. EIDL funding is used to pay fixed debts, payroll and expenses, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the

disaster’s impact. This financial resource has allowed millions of small business owners across America to retain employees, continue operating and support their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government’s coordinated response. The SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused programs possible.

As a reminder, the loan portion of the COVID-19 EIDL program continues to have funds available at very affordable and flexible terms, with an automatic deferment of one year before monthly payments begin. Every eligible small business and non-profit is encouraged to visit sba.gov/coronavirus-relief to get more informa-

Corrections reform, transparency in appropriations among legislation approved by Mississippi Senate

Press Release

Legislation passed by the Mississippi Senate on February 9 included:

- Senate Bill 2839, authored by Chairman Josh Harkins, which revises the SMART Business Act to provide grants to faculty and staff at universities to develop prototypes for market. The SMART Business Act was originally passed to encourage better relationships between businesses and institutions of higher learning to promote innovation and

tion about applying for EIDL and other economic recovery programs.

economic development in the State.

- Senate Bill 2795, authored by Chairman Juan Barnett, which responsibly increases earned parole opportunities and increases educational and job training opportunities. Barnett has worked with sheriffs, district attorneys, criminal justice advocates, and others for months on the development of this legislation.

- Senate Bill 2824, authored by Chairman Briggs Hopson, which requires nonprofits or other entities receiving a line-item appropriation from the Legislature to provide a report on ex-

penditures. Currently, these entities are not subject to the open records laws like other public entities receiving taxpayer dollars.

- Senate Bill 2621, authored by Chairman Brice Wiggins, which establishes a task force to examine Mississippi’s current domestic and family laws related to childcare, custody, guardian-ad-litem and other issues.

“Our Senators are focused on legislation which increases transparency, maximizes the use of state dollars, recognizes ingenuity, and improves the lives of Mississippians,” Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann said.

The deadline for original floor action on general legislation was Thursday, February 11, 2021.

For more information on Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann, visit www.ltgov-hosemann.ms.gov.