

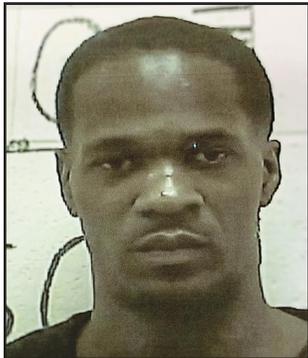
Leflore County brothers sentenced to life without parole plus thirty years

News Release

Tuesday, June 1, Holmes County Circuit Court Judge Barry Ford, sentenced two Leflore County brothers, Perez Love and Demantreas Love of Greenwood to Life without Possibility of Parole for the Capital Murder of Varnado Washington. This sentence came following a three-day trial last month, where a Holmes County jury found the Love brothers guilty of Capital Murder, Aggravated Assault and two counts of Armed Robbery. In addition to the Life without Possibility of Parole, they were, also, sentenced to twenty years for Aggravated Assault and thirty years for each count of Armed Robbery. The sentence for Aggravated Assault shall run concurrent with the Life without Possibility of Parole and the sentences for the Armed Robbery shall run concurrent to one another, but consecutive to the sentences of Capital Murder and Aggravated Assault, for a total of Life without Possibility of Parole plus thirty years. Perez Love, sentenced as a habitual offender, was, also, sentenced to ten years for Possession of Firearm by



PEREZ LOVE



DEMANTREAS LOVE

a Convicted Felon. Their convictions stem from a brutal night of violence that occurred July 2, 2017, at Club CJ of Cruger, Mississippi. Varnado Washington was shot and killed and Joe Holmes was shot and robbed, along with the armed robbery of two other victims. Another Co-Defendant, Jamar Newsome,

Cigars: Now is the Time to Quit

News Release

Historically, cigar smoking in the United States has been a behavior of older men. But the industry's increased marketing has produced an uptick in cigar use among adolescents, especially flavored cigars to attract new and younger smokers.

Rusty Shackelford, a 40-year-old male from Madison County tells his story. "I started smoking cigars at 17. I thought I was bulletproof; I didn't care about my heath." Shackelford added, "Flavored cigars taste delicious, and I thought I looked so cool. But now I'm addicted. Now I smoke cigarettes and cigars."

According to the 2018-2020 Mississippi Youth Tobacco Survey Report, just 0.4 percent of middle school students and 2.2 percent of high school students report frequent cigar use. However, of those middle and high school

pleaded guilty to charges earlier this year related to the same incident. Acting on behalf of the state from the office of District Attorney Akillie Malone Oliver, were Assistant District Attorneys Walter Bleck, Timothy C. Howard and Sharon A. Spencer.

students who were recent cigar users, 43.6 percent reported smoking flavored cigars, according to 2018 U.S. statistics. Male students made up a higher portion of cigar smokers compared to their female peers.

Regular cigar smoking is associated with an increased risk for cancers of the lung, throat, voice box and mouth. Those cigar smokers who inhale deeply are at an increased risk for developing coronary heart disease, emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

In 2001, the Federal Trade Commission mandated that cigar packaging and advertisements must display one of the following five "SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING"

- Cigar Smoking Can Cause Cancers Of The Mouth And Throat, Even If You Do Not Inhale.
- Cigar Smoking Can Cause Lung Cancer And Heart Disease.
- Tobacco Use Increases The Risk Of Infertility, Stillbirth, And Low Birth Weight.
- Cigars Are Not A Safe Alternative To Cigarettes.
- Tobacco Smoke Increases The Risk Of Lung Cancer And Heart Disease, Even In Nonsmokers.

"Quitting smoking yields large and immediate benefits to your health, no mat-

benefits and impacts of using medical marijuana. He said he has concerns about young people developing substance use disorders and about the use of marijuana by pregnant women.

"There are potential harms," Dobbs said. "As we look into this, I think we need to think about it in the context of, 'It's not a panacea. There are downsides to everything.'"

He said the Health Department is also opposed to allowing medical marijuana to be smoked because of the risk of lung cancer and other detrimental health impacts.

Dobbs said it would realistically take the Health Department six to nine months at minimum to develop a medical marijuana program. Initiative 65 would have required a medical marijuana program to be in effect the middle of this year, and the department had been working on creating a program before the Supreme Court ruling.

About 1.3 million people voted in Mississippi in November, and more than 766,000 of them voted in favor of Initiative 65. That's about 10,000 more residents than voted in November for then-President Donald Trump, who won handily in the state despite losing his reelection bid.

* MSU/Ole Miss

(Continued from page 1.)
nor Ole Miss has a College World Series Championship to their name.

MSU advanced in 2019 and 2018 but fell short, and advanced all the way to the championship game in 2013 before losing to UCLA.

Ole Miss last appeared in Omaha in 2014, where they lost to Virginia.

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Lawmakers discuss future of medical marijuana in Mississippi

By Leah Willingham

Jackson, Miss. (AP) — The leader of the organization that sponsored the voter-approved Mississippi medical marijuana initiative that was recently blocked in court says the program should be changed and improved by the state Legislature — but not by too much.

Medical marijuana advocates were outraged last month when the state Supreme Court ruled that Mississippi's initiative process is outdated and therefore the initiative is void.

Mississippi Medical Marijuana Association executive director Ken Newburger said when Initiative 65 was written, he and others made some "short-sighted" missteps, such as tasking the state Department of Health with running the program on its own.

"There are some major gaps that I think a lot of you have pointed out in the past and a lot of people in the state have pointed out that need to be remedied," Newburger said Thursday during a Senate Public Health Committee meeting at the state Capitol.

However, Newburger said it's important that the

basic tenets of what voters approved stay the same: Patients should be able to consume marijuana in any form — in a joint, edibles or otherwise; doctors should be responsible for certifying patients; small businesses should be able to operate and compete in the industry; and the program should be self-funded.

Mississippi residents voted in November to adopt Initiative 65, a state constitutional amendment that would have required the Health Department to create a program so marijuana could be available to people with "debilitating" medical conditions. The long list included cancer, epilepsy and sickle cell anemia.

As lawmakers on Thursday discussed what a state medical marijuana program might look like, major topics of conversation centered on whether Mississippi should allow people to smoke marijuana, how much marijuana people should be able to receive each month, how it will be taxed, where the revenue will go and how close treatment centers should be to schools and churches.

"The sooner we start talking about what options we have, the better," said Dem-

ocratic Sen. Hob Bryan of Amory, the Public Health Committee chairman. "What is in the best interest of the public? That's what we must determine."

Republican Sen. Kevin Blackwell of Olive Branch said some lawmakers might balk at a program that allows people to smoke marijuana, as well as allowing people to receive up to 5 ounces (142 grams) a month, as proposed in Initiative 65.

"Five ounces a month seems like an awful lot of marijuana," Blackwell said.

Republican Sen. Brice Wiggins of Pascagoula asked whether some of the tax revenue from the sale of marijuana should go into the state budget. Initiative 65 would have put the revenue into running the medical marijuana program.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has not said whether he will call legislators into special session this year to consider medical marijuana legislation. If he does not, the discussion would happen after the next regular session begins in January.

State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs told lawmakers Thursday there is still limited research on the

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Please include all pertinent details, dates, location, name of the event or occasion, all associated people, organizations or groups, reason for event or occasion and **NAMES OF ALL PEOPLE PICTURED IN ANY PHOTOGRAPH.**
We look forward to hearing from you!
-Holmes County Herald Staff