## 2018 Delinquent Tax Sale pages 5-12

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## HERALD

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 63 - NUMBER 26

## Independence D



John Trumbull's depiction of July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas by John Trumbull, 1818, for the rotunda of the United States Capitol in Washington. D.C. The members of the Continental Congress signed the declaration in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, a day subsequently celebrated as Independence Day in the United States.

Written by: David L. Professor of History, The Graduate Center, City

4, 2021 in the United States. which had been marked an-

called Fourth of July or July originally drafted by Thom- in the 17th and 18th centu-4th, in the United States, the as Jefferson in consultation ries, when dynastic and reannual celebration of nation- with fellow committee mem- ligious controversies racked hood. It commemorates the bers John Adams, Benjamin the British Empire (and passage of the Declaration Franklin, Roger Sherman, much of the rest of Europe), of Independence by the Con- and William Livingston, un- the choice of which annivertinental Congress on July 4, til two days later. The cele-saries of historic events were cal meanings. The ritual of to Parliament's legislation

banquets began to be reprinted in newspapers.

In the early stages of the revolutionary movement in the colonies during the 1760s and early '70s, patri-1776. Independence Day is bration was initially modeled celebrated and which were ots used such celebrations celebrated on Sunday, July on that of the king's birthday, lamented had clear politi- to proclaim their resistance

of liberty.

with parades, oratory, and

The Congress had voted in nually by bell ringing, bon- toasting the king and other while lauding King George toasting in ceremonies that Waldstreicher, Distinguished favour of independence from fires, solemn processions, patriot-heroes—or of criti- III as the real defender of celebrated the existence of Great Britain on July 2 but and oratory. Such festivals cizing them—became an English liberties. However, the new nation. These rites did not actually complete the had long played a significant informal kind of political the marking of the first days played an equally important process of revising the Dec- role in the Anglo-American speech, further formalized in of independence during the role in the evolving federal Independence Day, also laration of Independence, political tradition. Especially mid-18th century when the summer of 1776 actually political system. With the toasts given at taverns and took the form in many towns rise of informal political parof a mock funeral for the ties, they provided venues king, whose "death" sym- for leaders and constituents bolized the end of monarchy to tie local and national conand tyranny and the rebirth tests to independence and the issues facing the national During the early years of polity. By the mid-1790s the the republic, Independence two nascent political par-Day was commemorated ties held separate partisan (Continued on page 12.)

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Precip. Chance

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Precip. Chance

**Tuesday Scattered T-Storms** 88/71



Wednesday Scattered T-Storms 88/72 Precip. Chance

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