

# Governor Reeves announces human trafficking operation leads to 8 arrests

JACKSON, Miss. — On Friday, July 09, 2021, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation launched an undercover operation in Lee County, which resulted in the arrests and charges of 8 individuals and the identification of 7 human trafficking victims.

“My administration will do whatever it takes to bring human traffickers to justice, and this operation sends a message that we won’t stand idly by while they exploit those who are most vulnerable,” said Governor Tate Reeves. “Human traffickers should think twice before stepping foot into Mississippi.”

“The Mississippi Department of Public Safety, in conjunction with the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, will continue to collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies to put an end to human trafficking in Mississippi,” said Commissioner Sean Tindell. “Our agency is committed to referring human trafficking victims to dedicated services and arresting the criminals behind their exploitation.”

“Human trafficking has no place in Mississippi. And, traffickers need to know that our women and children are off limits,” said Attorney General Lynn Fitch. “I am grateful for dedicated law enforcement officers, like those at the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, for their continued partnership in protecting the vulnerable.

And, our work doesn’t end when the operation ends. We must support and empower victims to move forward without shame or blame. Our efforts will always be victim-first as we connect recovered individuals with the tools and resources they need to build a new life with hope and dignity.”

The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Tupelo Police Department, National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, Booneville Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Restore Corps Memphis, Center for Violence Prevention, and the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General assisted in the operation, which resulted in the arrests of the following individuals:

- ♦ Dewayne K. Davis, 51, was charged with Child Exploitation.
- ♦ Noe Andres Muz, 34, was charged with Child Exploitation.
- ♦ Keelan Jerome Smithy, 30, was charged with Child Exploitation.
- ♦ Willis Dewayne Traylor, 40, was charged with 2 counts of possession of

methamphetamines and cocaine.

- ♦ Bobby Wade Green, 54, was charged with Promoting Prostitution.
- ♦ Keenan Hardy, 32, had three felony warrants for Domestic Violence out of



KEENAN HARDY



DEWAYNE K. DAVIS



NOE ANDRES MUZ



WILLIS DEWAYNE TRAYLOR



BOBBY WADE GREEN



KEELAN JEROME SMITHY

# Pleasures & Treasures

It’s early morning on the Circle S and as I sit on the back porch listening to the tree frogs serenade me, the big John Deere blowing diesel smoke as it wakes up, and the cows mooing for their babies to come and eat breakfast, I am reveling in the glories and beauties that surround this little log house.

We are finally back to my most favorite place of all after a long recovering and mending from my shattered and broken leg. Everything is the same but different. I see things through, not rose-colored glasses, but through

Illinois and was arrested for extradition.

- ♦ Two more were charged with Promoting Prostitution, and their names will be released upon arrest.

If you suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

more than 10 years and has proven as effective, if not superior to in-person treatment, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, an independent study conducted by Lionrock Recovery, a telehealth provider of substance use disorder treatment and support, showed that 80 percent of people in their online recovery meetings since the pandemic started, had never attended any support meetings—either online or in person - prior to the coronavirus outbreak. Half of those surveyed said they would attend only online meetings when restrictions were lifted. Nearly all of the participants (98 percent) said they would continue to attend online meetings, even when in person meetings become a viable option again. Lionrock has experienced over 400 per-

escalated and increased revelation. Everything looks so vivid and intense as I look through grateful eyes and a glad heart. I have never been more appreciative to be back to nearly normal even through all the difficulties I have endured.

The hay fields are thick and tall with ready-to-be cut fodder for our cows, the beautiful little yellow flowers overlay our pastures that need to be clipped, and to my dismay, my farmer husband says they are bitter weeds and not to the taste of our herd. They are still most delightful to me.

And, in our front yard, just below our American flag waving and curling in the wind, there are four large blow-up swimming pools filled with water as two of my grandsons and five “imported buddies” play kick ball as they slide from one pool to another aided by tarps coated with my dish

cent growth in attendance of online recovery support meetings since the pandemic first caused national shutdowns in March.

Addiction Risk Rising With COVID-19: The Center for Disease Control (CDC) surveyed adults during late June to assess mental health, substance use, and suicidal ideation during the pandemic. The agency found an alarming 24.7 percent of young adults and 19.5 percent of adults ages 25 to 44 started or increased substance use to cope with pandemic-related stress or emotions in June, with the Black and Hispanic populations and essential workers disproportionately affected. However, the report concluded that expanded use of telehealth, an effective means of delivering treatment for mental health conditions, includ-

washing liquid. And yet, another pleasing sight of life and laughter continuing.

Here I sit on the porch watching this fast-paced game of youth play out and holding my last miracle, our six-month old little Emmie Jo as she sits and yanks and pulls on my walker all the while screaming words, (her words), of encouragement to the players.

It matters not whether you are sitting on the porch of your most favorite spot in the world or just sitting. What matters is that something I have learned, not too late in life, is that you let yourself forget your troubles occasionally, and just ENJOY life as it is. Don’t worry about the nuisances in your life just dwell on the certain and confirmed things that bring you joy and pleasure because these things are your treasure.

We have had an abundant

harvest of yellow squash, so I have become very diverse in preparing them. I have tried pan fried, sautéed’, casseroles, squash fried chips, parmesan baked squash chips, patty pan, and even cut into noodles. This is one I have made often.....

Squash Casserole.....2 pounds of squash, washed and cut into small pieces, boil until tender in salted water, about 15 minutes. While these are cooking sauté’ one diced onion and ½ cup of bell pepper in ½ stick of butter. Drain the squash and mix with the onion and bell pepper and add 1 cup of mayonnaise, 2 beaten eggs, ½ cup sour cream, 1 T. Greek seasoning, salt and pepper, 1½ cups of shredded cheddar cheese. Pour into a casserole dish and add 1 sleeve of crushed Ritz crackers and 1 ½ cups of shredded cheddar to the top. Bake for 40 minutes at 350\*.

Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.

ing depression, SUD, and suicidal ideation, might reduce COVID-19-related mental health consequences.

According to Peter Loeb, co-founder of Lionrock, one of the reasons telehealth is so effective in treating people with substance use disorder and supporting long-term recovery, is its flexibility and privacy. People can seek and receive HIPAA-compliant treatment from the privacy of their home, any time of day. To-date, a major barrier for people seeking treatment is the fear of stigma in their communities; online treatment’s privacy eliminates that concern.

The benefits of telehealth inspired Loeb to create National Online Recovery Day, which is celebrated on September 22, as part of National Recovery Month. National Online Recovery Day is a campaign to raise awareness for online treatment of substance abuse. It is the first national health awareness day focused on the benefits and advantages of telehealth services for any health issue.

While 42.2 million people need treatment, SAMHSA data reveals only 4 million people actually receive it. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to create an epidemic from substance abuse, but by improving awareness of, and access to, online care, more Americans can receive the care and support they need.

**Learn More**

To learn more about online recovery for substance use disorders visit [www.NationalOnlineRecoveryDay.com](http://www.NationalOnlineRecoveryDay.com).



Peggy’s Take

## Online Recovery provides new hope for people battling addiction

