

Governor Reeves Signs Legislation Designating Mississippi Opal as Official State Gemstone

JACKSON, Miss. – Governor Tate Reeves today signed Senate Bill 2138 which designates the Mississippi Opal as the official state gemstone.

“The green Mississippi Opal is as beautiful as our state and it will be an excellent representation of our unique geological history,” said Governor Tate Reeves. “Thank you to our First Lady and the folks at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality for working to elevate this issue. I was proud to sign this legislation.”

“There’s no doubt that Mississippi is home to lovely people, places, and natural resources,” said First Lady Elee Reeves. “I’m incred-



ibly excited to have the Mississippi Opal as our official state gemstone. This gem is a perfect example of the beauty found in the state we love.”

The opal was formed by volcanic ash. It is the only naturally occurring gem-

stone in the state of Mississippi. It was discovered during routine geological mapping efforts of the Cahoula Formation in Claiborne County by the Office of Geology at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

I think of all the hunters who are enjoying the spoils of victory right now. They are making some of the best chili or spaghetti sauce with the ground deer from their freezer. Others are slicing the tenderloin for either a breakfast biscuit or an evening meal. And there’s nothing better than a crockpot full of onions and potatoes slow cooking with a venison ham. My mouth is watering as I type. Not only do we get to enjoy telling the stories of a successful solo harvest, but the results will bring some joyful refreshment for many others and for many months

ing better than a crockpot full of onions and potatoes slow cooking with a venison ham. My mouth is watering as I type. Not only do we get to enjoy telling the stories of a successful solo harvest, but the results will bring some joyful refreshment for many others and for many months

later. Pardon the pun, but I’ve been chewing on this thought for several days now; the thought of how a seemingly devastating defeat or even a death brings about an even greater fruitfulness.

As most of you know, I believe nature is not by accident. I don’t believe God created something without purpose. I believe the Apostle Paul when he said that creation shows us God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power, and his divine nature. That is, creation is a compass that points us to God. Now fast-forward to me and my deer. My deer died, but in dying became the source of joy for many others. And to this I am reminded of so many illustrations in the Bible about things like the crushing of grapes for wine, being crucified with Christ, and even Jesus’ prophecy concerning his crucifixion. “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives” (John 12:23-24 NIV)

Some of you are in the

Sledge brings home bronze medal for Holmes CC



JACOB SLEDGE

The SkillsUSA chapters from Holmes Community College’s Goodman and Ridgeland campuses successfully competed in the 2023 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference held March 2-8. The winners were recognized during a ceremony on March 9 at the Hilton Jackson. Overall, Holmes took home seven awards: six gold medals and one bronze. Every participant placed.

On the Goodman Campus, Jacob Sledge of Pickens won a bronze medal for Welding.

For more information about SkillsUSA on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Heather Mooney at hmooney@holmescc.edu. For information about the Goodman chapter, contact Will Alexander at walexander@holmescc.edu.

Shop Lexington Farm Supply for all your gardening needs.

**In stock now:
13-13-13**

**Miracle Gro® Potting Soil
Assorted Vegetable Plants,
Seeds, Mulch and much more!**

COMING SOON!!

BAIT AND TACKLE

LEXINGTON FARM SUPPLY

Store Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sat. 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Highway 12 E 834-3388 Lexington

Holmes County native named to Top Five at Holmes CC



Pictured are the Top Five for Holmes Parade of Beauties 2023. They are (left to right) Mackenzie Hancock of Yazoo City, Harley Henley of Grenada, Most Beautiful Allie Williamson of Grenada, Olivia Howell of Lexington and Abigail Edge of Vaughan.

Allie Williamson of Grenada was crowned Holmes Community College’s Most Beautiful during the 2023 Parade of Beauties pageant held March 7 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. She was crowned by 2022 Most Beautiful Lindsey Turner of Sallis.

Holmes County native Olivia Howell was chosen as one of the Top Five. She is the daughter of Scott and

Tara Howell of Lexington.

In addition to Williamson, the Top Five for Parade of Beauties included Abigail Edge of Vaughan, Mackenzie Hancock of Yazoo City, Harley Henley of Grenada and Olivia Howell of Lexington. The Top 10 included Williamson, Edge, Hancock, Henley, Howell, Maddie Davis of French Camp, Bralyn McGee of Kosciusko, Kathryn Clare Schuler of

Kosciusko, Tessa Mullins of Stewart and Charli White of Madison. Hancock was named Most Photogenic, as well.

The pageant included interviews with judges earlier in the day and the evening gown competition. Tina Boyette, administrative assistant to the Goodman Campus vice president, directed the pageant with student activity directors Haley DeNoon and Amanda Lindsey serving as assistant directors. Goodman Campus Recruiter Nikki Boutwell served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Chase Langford of McCool and Noah Steen of Kosciusko escorted the contestants, and members of the Holmes Connection!, under the direction of Mike Yates, provided entertainment at intermission.

prime of your life- not only physically, but spiritually. You have been producing great fruit and it seems that it’s been a long time coming. But recently something has brought all of that to a halt. It seems everything you have worked for, or prayed for, or accomplished, has been crushed, or even put to death. You are not wrong. It has. But not so the rest of your life will be UNfruitful, but so it will be MORE fruitful. And while you can’t see

it right now and while it really does feel devastating, just remember, God is the one who is overseeing the process you are going through. He is perfect in his work and in his promises. Again, the Apostle Paul confirmed this. “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:6 NIV) gary@outdoortruths.org Gary has written the Outdoor Truths article for 20 years.

**CASH PLUS
TITLE PLUS**

205 Tchula St., Lexington, MS
(across from Double Quick)
662-834-9045

Payday Loans up to \$400.00
Title Loans up to \$2,500.00

**WE DO 30 DAY LOANS!!!
NO Credit Check**

Refer a friend, earn a free \$20.00!



Mary Clayton Burrell
Parker Belk
March 11

Hannah Morris
Nate Killebrew
April 15

Lanie Davis
Devin Gentry
April 15

**Peoples
Drug Store**

Court Square 834-2721 Lexington