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HERALD

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THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017 THREE SECTIONS PHONE 834-1151 hcherald@gmail.com LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095 VOLUME 59 - NUMBER 15

Overview time line given for county consolidation with last separate school district

By Matthew Breazeale
Representatives with the Mississippi Department of Education presented an overview time line during a Holmes County Board of Supervisors work session held on March 2 on how future school district consolidations would process.

Dr. Bill Welch, bureau director for the Mississippi Department of Education, spoke during the meeting in place of Interim Deputy Superintendent Mike Kent, who was scheduled to attend.

Holmes County Superinten-

dent Dr. Angel Meeks and Durant Superintendent Dr. Glenn Carlisle also were present.

Welch went over the out line which was provided to attendees.

"We here to go over the law," said Welch. "Not go over it's, and's or what's. We're going try not to venture off too far of what could happen.

"These dates are important to the consolidation to make sure everything is going to run like it should. The first one, February 2017, Debra Jones was assigned from the department as financial

advisor for the district. We've had discussions about her role at other board meetings, we don't want her role to be any more than it needs to be. The districts are paying, and I know that's a whole other point, the districts (Durant and Holmes County) are paying for that time."

Welch added that the details for paying a consultant was mandated by the state legislature.

"The state legislature has not appropriated any funds for the districts to spend to any of the consolidation," Welch contin-



The Holmes County supervisors meeting room was packed during the March 2 work session with school stakeholders eager to hear the proposed schedule for consolidation.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

ued. "They have not appropriated any additional funds to the department to deal with this. This is something that comes

out of our standard budget. Does it need to be addressed? Probably so. Who addresses that? I don't really know or who

the responsible party would be. But anyway, Debra Jones has been appointed as the financial advisor.

"What we see as her role," Welch continued, "your normal monthly expenses, gas, water, and stuff like that, she will look at the docket and she'll give approval. The normal everyday stuff is not what she's looking for. Mr. Kent used the example last time we were here, there was a district that was going to be consolidated and they spent over \$8,000 on landscaping.

"We're not expecting anything like that to happen, but it is in law that there will be a financial advisor to look over (Continued on page 4.)

New industry takes up residence in former Fleetwood facility



Emerald Transformer, headquartered in Defuniak Springs, Florida, is now the new resident at the former Fleetwood facility located on Bowling Green Road in Holmes County. The company recently restructured its operations by closing down two facilities in Madison and Grenada, relocating to Holmes. A luncheon was held on Monday, April 10 at the facility to show new employees and community leaders the building layout and future developments. Check out next week's edition of the *Herald* for the full story. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

Litter problem piling up through county Sheriff, others seeking methods to combat growing eyesore

By Matthew Breazeale
Holmes County is dirty. You can see litter when you drive out of Lexington to Durant. You can see litter when you drive out of Lexington to Tchula. You can see litter when you drive out of Lexington to Goodman.

It's almost like a garbage cyclone has been touring the county for months.

So what can be done? Who cares? Who's going to get their hands on the "problem"?

The Mississippi Department of Transportation used to air television ads with former Mississippi First lady Pat Fordice yelling at a parade of characters who litter, "I'm Not Your Mama. Pick It Up Mississippi!" That message has gotten lost recently in the area.

Holmes County Sheriff Willie March said he's looking to

implement a work program for people to pay off court fines and those who are unemployed to starting cleaning up the county.

"I met with the highway department, one day last week and they are going to hire two people to actually pick up trash as a full-time job," said March. "But I am asking the (Holmes County) Board of Supervisors to pay their fringe benefits. When you hire someone full time, someone's got to (pay) for the fringe

benefits."

"People that owe old fines, they could actually go out there and get sentenced to pick up trash," March continued. "We're going to be asking the (Continued on page 5.)

HERALD BRIEF

Holmes Chamber 28th awards banquet tonight

The Holmes County Chamber of Commerce will host University of Mississippi Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter to give the keynote address at the 28th annual awards banquet set for tonight.

Goodman native and Gospel artist Brady Smart will provide entertainment for the evening.

The silent auction begins at 6 p.m. in the Carroll Cafeteria on the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College.

HERALD BRIEF

Lexington Egg Hunt set for this Saturday

The City of Lexington will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15 at 1:00 p.m. on the grounds of the former Lexington Elementary School.

What Exactly Is the Good News of Easter Sunday?

By Dr. Larry Moyer

Easter Sunday is approaching. You prayed for a door of opportunity, and it has opened. You have a chance to tell your best friend the one message she needs most. Suddenly, the question comes to your mind, "What exactly is that message?" At a religious convention when 60 people were asked the question, "What is the gospel?" only one had a biblical answer. If the gospel message is not clear in your mind, it won't be in your friend's, either.

Let's first examine what the message is not.

It's not about how to find happiness. Many non-Christians are the happiest they have ever been – so happy that they don't see the need for Christ. On the other hand, it's possible to be a Christian and be unhappy. Believers often become discouraged because of persecution or the agonizing hardships of life, and can experience loneliness or even depression.

The gospel message is not about reconciling human relationships. God wants a man and a woman to experience marriage, not just a merger of two people who live under the same roof. But a husband and wife who have a solid marriage will still be separated from God forever if they are unbelievers. Furthermore, even couples who know Christ face marital struggles at times.

Nor does the message concern how God can help you out of a problem you face, whether it is a jail sentence or an unavoidable job loss. Circumstances before conversion don't necessarily change after you come to Christ. A murderer may still face the executioner's needle. A person who has lost a job may still incur debt.

The gospel message is bigger than that. It is defined in **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** and can be reduced to 10 words, "Christ died for our justifiable defense. If someone looks at the catastrophes of today

and questions God's love, he has to explain away the cross. If a lost person questions whether Christ was God, he has to explain away the resurrection. Moreover, an unbeliever may be disappointed with the actions of Christians today. But the message has nothing to do with what Christians are doing. It deals with what Christ has already done – his death and resurrection.

The clear message of the gospel also highlights the depth of Christ's love. He didn't just die. He died for me, just as he did for you. **1 Corinthians 15:3** says, "For my sins." He didn't die to show me how to live – giving instead of getting. He didn't die to show me how to die – putting others first. His death was substitutionary. A sinless Savior took a sinner's place. Had he not died, I would have to suffer my own punishment. Amazing love!

Next, the clear gospel message puts the emphasis where it needs to be – eternal life in heaven not temporal life on earth. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (**John 11:25-26**).

God is not offering earth with heaven thrown in. He's offering heaven with earth thrown in. When I know him, it doesn't matter how, when or where I die. I am going to be in his presence forever. The span of our lives on earth is brief and uncertain. The length of life with him is eternal. Even though the circumstances in my life today may be very difficult, as a believer I know he'll be with me. But when I die, I'll be with him where there is no pain or problems.

One final thing characterizes the gospel message: the simplicity of the response. How can you benefit from Christ's death and resurrection and receive eternal life? Trust in Christ, the one who did it all, as the only way to heaven. Jesus promised, "He who believes in me has everlasting life" (**John 6:47**). Eternal life is free.

If we're confused about the gospel on Easter (or any other day), it's because we've made difficult what God intended to be simple. Christ died for us and arose. Trust in him alone. Receive his gift of eternal life. As you recognize the clarity of the message, it ought to cause you to ask not only "Who can I tell?" but "How many can I tell?"

Dr. Larry Moyer is the founder and CEO of EvanTell, an evangelism training ministry. For more information, visit www.evantell.org. (Printed with permission. This article was originally posted to Crosswalk, (<http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/what-exactly-is-the-good-news-of-easter-sunday.html>))



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Holmes County 7-Day Forecast for April 13 - 19 as reported on THE WEATHER CHANNEL

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| Thursday Partly Cloudy 83/60 Precip. Chance 20% | Friday Mostly Cloudy 85/58 Precip. Chance 10% | Saturday Partly Cloudy 84/61 Precip. Chance 10% | Sunday Partly Cloudy 83/61 Precip. Chance 20% | Monday Scattered T'Storms 82/60 Precip. Chance 60% | Tuesday Scattered T'Storms 81/60 Precip. Chance 60% | Wednesday Mostly Sunny 84/62 Precip. Chance 20% |

Check out our Web site at HolmesCountyHerald.com



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