

Festival planning continues with nine days left before big event



The Lexington Fall Festival Planning Committee met again on Tuesday, September 12 at Lexington City Hall to continue organizing the city’s third annual city-wide fall celebration. The committee discussed children’s activities, vendor spacing, the proposed car show and contest, with the possibility for restructuring the fall festival into a fall fried chicken cook off in the future. Any vendors who want to participate in the fall festival should contact Lexington City Hall at 662-834-1261 or stop by there for a vendor application. The festival is set for Saturday, October 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. around the Lexington Court Square. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

New diploma options expand college and career opportunities for students

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) voted on Thursday, September 14, to approve new diploma options that will give students the opportunity to earn an endorsement with their high school diploma and will provide the majority of students with disabilities an opportunity to earn a traditional diploma.

The new options follow a statewide effort to increase college and career opportunities for all students and a new state law that eliminates the Mississippi Occupational Diploma (MOD) option for students with disabilities starting with freshmen entering high school in the

2017-18 school year.

The new diploma options include a traditional diploma for all students and an alternate diploma option for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. Students will also have the opportunity to earn additional requirements to qualify for a traditional diploma with a Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsement, an academic endorsement or a distinguished academic endorsement. Students can earn more than one endorsement.

“The new diploma requirements will ensure that the vast majority of Mississippi students earn a traditional high school diploma that is recognized by postsecondary institutions, employers and the military,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “For students who want to go further, the endorsement options will allow them to earn credentials while in high school that will help them achieve their goals for college or career.”

The new diploma options will take effect for incoming ninth graders in the 2018-19 school year. Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who are currently in a course of study that leads to the MOD option must get parental permission to remain on the MOD track. Otherwise, their Individualized Education Program (IEP) team will be encouraged to consider a course of study that leads to a traditional diploma.

The traditional diploma will require all students graduating from Mississippi high schools to have the same basic requirements and to earn 24 Carnegie

Units. After meeting the traditional diploma requirements, students can take additional CTE coursework to meet the requirements for the CTE endorsement or advanced, college-preparation coursework to earn an academic or distinguished academic endorsement. The CTE and academic endorsements require students to earn 26 Carnegie Units. Students must earn 28 Carnegie Units to qualify for the distinguished academic endorsement. Also, the distinguished academic endorsement requires students to meet national college and career benchmarks above just earning credits.

The alternate diploma is designed for the approximately 1 percent of students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability. This diploma requires students earn 24 credits in an alternate course of study. The alternate diploma is not equivalent to the traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a high school diploma. However, the alternate diploma certifies that a student with a Significant Cognitive Disability has successfully completed a course of study aligned to academic standards.

The MDE is not moving forward at this time with the original proposal of requirements for a Certificate of Completion. The MDE will seek additional input this fall from school districts and stakeholders regarding the requirements for the Certificate of Completion, which has been an option for some students with disabilities who have not been able to meet the requirements for a traditional diploma.



The City of Durant and Durant Historic Preservation Commission received good news last week as Mississippi Department of Transportation has approved an additional \$240,000 in the funding of renovations for the Historic Durant Depot North Building Renovation Project. The original MDOT grant plus Mississippi Department of Archives and History funding and a grant from Mississippi Development Authority was not sufficient for all the planned work, according to commission chair Sharron Cauthen. All bids at first opening were high, way over the funds available. Durant was facing a severe cut back, possibly omitting interior renovation. MDOT knew plans were to renovate at least one meeting space, so they provided extra money in an effort to pay the current market cost for roof repair, stabilization, exterior repairs, and partial interior renovation. After another MDOT review of plans, Durant will announce a second round of bidding later. The Durant Depot is a Mississippi Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building was purchased by the City of Durant from CN Railway in 2009. It was constructed by Illinois Central Railroad in 1909. (Photo submitted)

The Certificate of Attendance is not equivalent to a high school diploma. The MDE expects to

bring its proposal regarding the Certificate of Completion to the SBE in early 2018.

*Lexington man

(Continued from page 1.) scheme due to Progressive Insurance discovering the false bill before an unlawful payment could be made to Adams.

A Holmes County grand jury indicted Adams in June. He was arrested Tuesday by deputies at the Holmes County Sheriff’s Office on a three-count indictment and booked into the Holmes/Humphreys Regional Correctional Facility.

If convicted on all counts, Adams faces up to 18 years in prison and \$25,000 in fines.

A charge is merely an accusation, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

His arraignment was scheduled for October 13 at 9 a.m.

This case was investigated by Michael Stevens and will be prosecuted by Special Assistant Attorney General Steven Waldrup, both with the Attorney General’s Insurance Integrity Enforcement Bureau.



Anxiety Ain’t Fun

Anxiety is a meteor shower of what-ifs. The sky is falling, and it’s falling disproportionately on you. Anxiety ain’t fun! One would think Christians would be exempt from worry but we are not. It’s enough to make us wonder if the apostle Paul was out of touch with reality when he wrote in Philippians 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing.”

Is that what he meant? Not exactly. He wrote the phrase in the present active tense—implying an ongoing state. “Don’t let anything in life leave you perpetually breathless and in angst.” The presence of anxiety is unavoidable, but the prison of

anxiety is optional. Could you use some calm? Of course you could. We all could!

We all could use a word of comfort and God is ready to give it.

Read more *Anxious for Nothing*.

UpWords, with Max Lucado is a popular daily Bible devotion. This Max Lucado devotional offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life.

Reading daily devotions provides strength and encouragement in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.

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Blue Mountain College’s new drama team, IMPACT, is in rehearsal for their original production of “This is My Story, This is My Song,” that will make its public debut in the spring of 2018. “This piece is all heart,” director Christi Mitchell said. The 30-minute drama was inspired by this year’s chapel theme, “This is My Story,” and depicts nine personal stories that show the power of faith in Jesus. IMPACT team members include: (front row, from left) Hope Brown (Horn Lake), Emily Canoy (Myrtle), Lauren Mallory (Tupelo), Mikayla Rayburn (Ripley), Shelby Shearon (Whitesburg, Ga.); (back row, from left) Jessica Clevenger (Pontotoc), Tyler Atkins (Humboldt, Tenn.), Kendrick Buchanan (Houston, Miss.), Joey Ellis (Durant), and Benjamin Mann (Jackson, Tenn.). (Photo submitted)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The *Holmes County Herald* welcomes your comments on editorial opinions and news items on most subjects important to you. All letters-to-the-editor should include the name, address and phone number of the writer, and must be handsigned by the writer. Letters will always be checked for verification purposes only. Letters may be no more than 250 words. Letters may be delivered to our office or mailed to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095 with a copy emailed to hcherald@gmail.com.

The *Holmes County Herald* reserves the right to edit or refuse to publish any letter deemed inappropriate.



Ashley Boatner
Jacob Williamson
September 23

Sara O’Reilly
Jamie Boyette
October 7

Laura Ellis
Justin Rennhack
October 21

Julia Yergar
Ryan Rogers
November 4

Kristan Carroll
Conner Pounders
November 11

Brett Spell
Grey Clark
November 20

Katelyn Bienemann
Davis Ables
December 9

Peoples Drug Store
Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

EXPRESS GRAIN COMMODITY PRICES

Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	Dec 17	2017 Sep	4.54	-0.52	4.02	0.04
Wheat	Jul 18	2018 July	4.98	-0.32	4.66	0.03
Corn	Dec 17	2017 Sep	3.54	-0.24	3.30	0.00
Corn	Sep 18	2018 Aug	3.88	-0.07	3.81	0.00
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 17	2017 Sep	9.71	-0.10	0.00	0.00
Soybeans G’wood	Nov 17	2017 Sep	9.71	-0.10	9.61	-0.13
Soybeans G’wood	Jan 18	2018 Jan	9.82	0.00	9.82	-0.13
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 17	2017 Sep	9.71	-0.10	0.00	0.00
Rice	Sep 17		12.020			-0.345
Rice	Sep 18		11.525			-0.335
Cotton	Oct 17		70.09			1.000
Cotton	Dec 17		69.46			1.000

Prices as of 2:00 p.m. on 9/25/17
Call to get daily bids by cell phone or email
www.ExpressGrain.com 662-453-0800