



Founded 1959

Holmes  
County

# HERALD

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*"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."*  
1 Peter 5:10

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017

THREE SECTIONS

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## HERALD BRIEF

### TRUNK OR TREAT TO BE OBSERVED IN DURANT

The City of Durant will not have door to door trick or treating on Halloween night. Instead Trunk or Treat will be observed on Saturday, October 28 at 5 p.m. on front street in Durant.

### JAIL FOR DOLLARS SET AT LEXINGTON LIBRARY

The Friends of the Lexington Public Library will hold the quarterly book sale at the library from November 13 - 17 during normal library hours. Sale prices range from 10 cents to 25 cents. The annual Friends of the Lexington Public Library Jail for Dollars Fundraiser will also be held during that week in the library foyer. Donations and pledges will be accepted to "bail out" local celebrities. All proceeds will be used to provide library materials and to fund programming for the library.

### HCHS READY TO WALK FOR CANCER AWARENESS

The Holmes County Central High School Parent Teacher Association and senior class of 2017 will host a cancer walk for breast cancer awareness on Friday, October 27 at 2 p.m. Participants will make laps around the school's driveway.

### HOMECOMING SET AT HOLMES CC OCTOBER 21

Homecoming 2017 is set for Saturday, Oct. 21 on the Goodman Campus with activities starting at 9 a.m. and lasting until the final horn sounds for the Bulldogs football game with Northeast. Activities include; alumni reunion for the 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 classes in McMorrough Library, 9 a.m.; lunch in the grove, Steel Band performance, noon; parade, 1:30 p.m.; pep rally, 2 p.m.; band enters the stadium, 2:30 p.m.; kickoff with Northeast, 3 p.m.

## REVIVALS

### SHROCK U.M.C.

Shrock United Methodist Church in Goodman will hold fall revival services on Sunday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m., Monday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, October 24 at 6 p.m.

### CHESTNUT RIDGE

Chestnut Ridge M.B. Church in Lexington will host fall revival services from Wednesday, October 25 through Friday, October 27 at 7:00 nightly.

## Widower of former poll worker considers litigation against county

By Matthew Breazeale

On November 7 of this year, Durant resident Harold Payton will be honoring two anniversaries. Fifty-nine years of marriage to his wife Jo Nell and one year since her death.

Payton's wife Jo Nell was working as a poll worker for Holmes County on the night of Monday, November 7, 2016. She was reportedly carrying ballot boxes from the second floor courtroom down to her car in preparation for November 8 Election Day. Jo Nell allegedly fell down the inside steps of the Holmes County Courthouse, hitting her head which led to her subsequent death. She was pronounced dead days later in a Greenwood hospital after no brain activity.

Payton is accusing the county of dismissing the incident by its silence of the matter.

"That day we were supposed to go out and celebrate our anniversary, we had been married fifty-eight years the seventh of November," said Payton. "And that happened at nine that night (Monday). She was working for



HAROLD PAYTON

the county, over there picking up stuff for the election," set for the following day.

Payton said he got a sense that something wasn't right with the situation when he "never did hear nothing from them! Nobody called me that night and told me about the accident until David Truitt, a friend of ours, called me. He lives down the road. He called me at 10 o'clock and asked me had I heard from Jo Nell. I said no, but I'm getting worried about her. He said 'Well, get your daughters to pick you up and bring you to Greenwood. She's had an acci-

dent and it's bad.'

"So that's what happened," Payton continued, "we got to Greenwood at 12 o'clock. This (incident) supposedly happened around 9:00 or 9:30. When we got up there they never did interview none of the family, they didn't ask us anything (about the fall), didn't ask us for any names, didn't ask us to sign nothing. (The hospital) got her wallet and got her Medicare card which is what they started charging to, I don't know who approved that. They had her in the operating room when we got there."

The family was finally able to lay eyes on their matriarch around 2 a.m.

"They came out carrying her down the hall, had her head covered up," said Payton. "I told the kids 'That's not good.' The doctor came in after he got cleaned up and said 'Well I've done all I can do tonight, I couldn't close up because of brain swelling. When we get her in the room, hooked up, y'all can go see her. When we

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Pictured above are the stairs leading down from the second floor in the Holmes County Courthouse where reportedly deceased county poll worker Jo Nell Payton fell, hitting her head on the night of November 7, 2016, which led to her subsequent death. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

## Anti-overdose medication now available to law enforcement, public

Staff Reports

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) has partnering with the 21st Judicial District Drug Court Program to provide naloxone, a life-saving medication that blocks or reverses the effects of opioid overdoses, to all law enforcement agencies in Holmes, Humphreys, and Yazoo Counties.

Training was held on Octo-

ber 6, in Lexington, by the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Services within DMH to provide the naloxone through funding provided by the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant awarded as part of the 21st Century Cures Act passed by Congress in December 2016.

This partnership with local law enforcement agencies is consistent with final recommen-

dations made by the Governor's Opioid and Heroin Study Task Force.

Michael Jordan, the State Opioid Treatment Authority with DMH says that, "The abuse of prescription drugs has led to a surge in opioid and heroin addiction, and this is an issue that is costing people their lives."

Naloxone is a medication that

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County and municipal law enforcement officials meet for a presentation by the Mississippi Department of Health on Friday, October 6 at the former county circuit clerk office in Lexington to receive training on how to administer naloxone to suspected people who have overdosed on an opioid substance. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)



At \$150.00 a dose, the nasal spray Narcan/Naloxone has been made available to both law enforcement officials and over the counter from a pharmacist for emergency treatment of those who overdose on opioid drugs by blocking mu-receptors in the brain. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

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Holmes County 7-Day Forecast for OCTOBER 19 - 25 as reported on THE WEATHER CHANNEL



**Thursday**  
Mostly Sunny  
80/54  
Precip. Chance  
10%



**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy  
82/58  
Precip. Chance  
10%



**Saturday**  
Partly Cloudy  
84/64  
Precip. Chance  
20%



**Sunday**  
Thunderstorms  
79/61  
Precip. Chance  
80%



**Monday**  
A.M. Showers  
75/53  
Precip. Chance  
40%



**Tuesday**  
Sunny  
72/48  
Precip. Chance  
10%



**Wednesday**  
Sunny  
69/47  
Precip. Chance  
0%

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