

## HERALD BRIEF

### Holmes Chamber set for Wednesday's Roundtable

The Holmes County Chamber of Commerce will host its Business and Economic Development Roundtable on Wednesday, February 21 at the Carroll Cafeteria on the campus of Holmes Community College 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Lunch is Dutch Treat. The speaker will be John Rounsaville, state director for USDA Rural Development.



### DESTINY HAYMER

#### District play starts today for Jaguars basketball

The Holmes County Central High School regular basketball season has ended with the Jaguars' district (Region 3 Class 5A) tournament starting today, Thursday, February 15 at Holmes Community College in Goodman.

The number 3 seed Jaguars will play number two seed Cleveland Central at 5:30 p.m. in Frank Branch Coliseum. Then the Lady Jaguars number one seed will duke it out against number four seed Neshoba Central at 7 p.m.

The tournament will wrap up on Saturday in Goodman. Consolation games will begin at 4 p.m. for the girls teams and at 5:30 p.m. for the boys' teams. Championship games are at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Destiny Haymer was named Region 3 District MVP. Valencia Weston, junior, Tniniyah Jones, junior, and StarDeanna Quinn, junior, were all named first team All District.

Freshman Shambriah Rule and 8th grader Carleigh Andrews were named second team All District.

For the boys teams, seniors David Caesar and James Bankhead were named first team All District.

## REVIVAL

### WEST GROVE M.B.C.

West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will have its two-night revival service from Monday, February 19 through Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 nightly.

## Pickens man who stole guns from dealer pleads guilty to illegal possession

Estelle Cook, Jr., 28, of Pickens, pled guilty on Friday, February 9, before United States District Judge Carlton Reeves, to being a felon in possession of a firearm, announced U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst and Special Agent in Charge Dana Nichols of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).

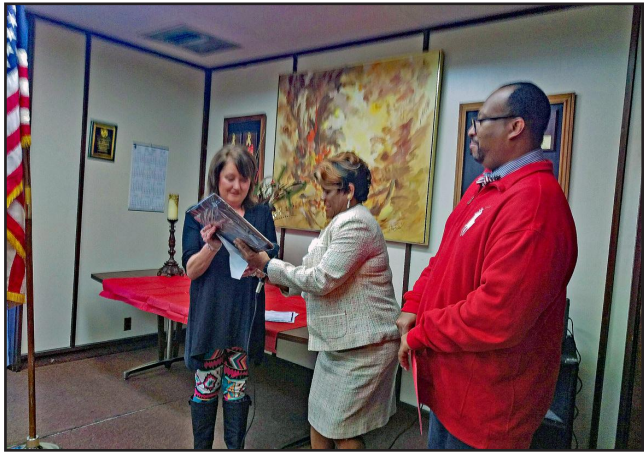
Around 2:30 a.m. on July 28, 2014, Estelle Cook and co-defendant Corey Hughes tore a hole in the side of Central Mississippi Firearms, a gun store in Kosciusko, Mississippi, and

stole 41 guns. Cook, Hughes, and others sold at least a dozen of the stolen firearms in Durant and Lexington.

Cook led the sale of at least ten of the stolen guns to seven different buyers at a home in Durant. He sold those guns for cash, pocketing \$100 per gun.

On October 3, 2017, a federal grand jury indicted Cook, Hughes, Darnell Branch and Frederick Russell for their unlawful conspiracy to possess and sell stolen firearms. Frederick Russell pled guilty on

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The City of Durant has erected a monument for a former alderwoman and community organizer in Liberty Garden. The memorial dedicated to Jo Nell Payton can be viewed to passersby at the intersection of Depot and Mulberry Streets. Payton was responsible for organizing Durant events over the years including National Night Out, National Day of Prayer vigil, health awareness walks and fund raisers, along with championing for residents of Ward 1, where she represented. Pictured above (at top) the memorial can be seen at its Liberty Park location in Durant. Pictured above, Deborah Tavares (at left), daughter of Payton, received a memorial plaque on behalf of Payton's family who were present at a memorial service on Sunday, February 11 at 3 p.m. at Durant City Hall. Presenting the plaque to Tavares is current Durant Ward 1 Alderwoman Carolyn Riley and Durant Mayor Dr. Henry Robinson.

(Photos by Matthew Breazeale)

## Lexington now has its own fire truck



The City of Lexington now has its own fire truck to serve the municipality after the city received proposals November 14, 2017. The used four-door pumper Kenworth freightliner from Deep South Fire Trucks Inc. was purchased by the city for \$86,500 less a trade in of an older fire truck of \$8,500 for a total purchase price of \$78,000. Lexington Fire Chief Derrick Hodges said the city has been without the use of a city-owned fire truck for the past two years. Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory said that Lexington had use of a fire truck through a usage agreement with Holmes County. Pictured above (from left), Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory, T.J. Walker, Deep South Firetrucks, and Lexington Fire Chief Derrick Hodges.

(Photo submitted)

## Dixie National rewards hard work from Holmes County competitors

By Betsy Padgett

### Holmes Co. Ext./4-H Agent

The Dixie National Livestock Show in Jackson is more than just the rodeo and the biggest spring stock show east of the Mississippi River. It is the annual host of the Mississippi Junior 4-H/FFA Roundup -- Mississippi's feature "state" livestock show. As such, it is the final

show annually for our livestock season. This year Holmes County 4-H youth once again represented well with Beef Cattle, Meat Goats, Market Lambs and Market Hogs.

The Market Hogs were the first to show -- exhibiting for two days. First on the schedule was the Showmanship exhibition where youth were judged

according to their personal skill in exhibiting their animal. (With hogs this is a feat since they are guided by a show stick.)

From our group, five managed to make the Top 10 in their age divisions: John Franklin Johnson, 5th, (8 yr. old); Drue Johnson, 9th, (12 yr. old); Lilly Word, 9th, (13 yr. old); John

(Continued on page 3.)



A delegation from the Church of God In Christ national organization met with Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory (pictured above, center) earlier in February about the opening of the Saints Academy campus for a summer youth camp beginning June 3. Renovations of the campus dormitories have been ongoing in preparation of the anticipated attendees. Those interested can contact Saints Academy. Pictured above are (from left) Minister William Thorow, Camp Teacher and Therapist; Sarah Byrd, Camp Director; McCrory; Omari Mathews, Camp Staff Worker; Bishop Vincent Mathews, COGIC World Missions President.

(Photo submitted)

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**Thursday**  
Sprinkles  
75/60

Precip. Chance  
30%



**Friday**  
Showers  
65/45

Precip. Chance  
50%



**Saturday**  
Rain  
52/47

Precip. Chance  
90%



**Sunday**  
A.M. Clouds/P.M. Sun  
71/60

Precip. Chance  
20%



**Monday**  
Mostly Cloudy  
76/60

Precip. Chance  
20%



**Tuesday**  
P.M. Rain  
72/57

Precip. Chance  
60%



**Wednesday**  
Showers  
67/55

Precip. Chance  
50%

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