

AG Hood announces nationwide settlement on CVS Health, Aetna merger

Senior citizens in Mississippi and other states are now protected from potential increased prescription drug prices and reduced choices that could have resulted from the merger of CVS Health and Aetna thanks to a settlement by Attorney General Jim Hood, the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) and a multistate coalition.

The agreed order requires Aetna to sell Medicare Part D plans of 1.5 million people to their competitor, WellCare Health Plans, in order to move forward with the planned merger. Prior to the agreement, the Mississippi Attorney General's Office was concerned that the \$69 billion merger would cause anticompetitive effects, including increased prices, inferior customer service, and decreased innovation in 16 Medicare Part D regions covering 22 states. The complaint, filed in D.C. District Court, alleges that the loss of competition between CVS and Aetna would result in lower-quality services and increased costs for consumers, the federal government, and ultimately, taxpayers.

Based on a report by insurance regulators, the proposed merger could have otherwise made a particular impact in Mississippi but for the divestiture. "The proposed merger would join two of the largest companies in this market: CVS, which holds the second largest market share, and Aetna, the fourth largest. Without requiring Aetna to sell off part of its business in order for the merger to go through, the consolidation could have harmed Mississippi's most vulnerable populations, seniors ages 65 and over and people with disabilities, by reducing options and increasing healthcare costs," General Hood said. "As part of the agreement, we will receive information that will help us monitor the impact of the merger on our older citizens and intervene if necessary."

CVS is a nationwide drug-store chain that has grown to include pharmacy benefit management and SilverScript Insurance, and Aetna is one of the nation's largest health insurance carriers. Under the terms of the proposed settlement, Aetna must assist WellCare in operating the business during the transition and in transferring the affected customers through a process regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

General Hood was joined in this announcement by the USDOJ and attorneys general from California, Hawai'i, Florida and Washington.

Lexington Colts youth football team rank up in district



The Lexington Colts' Saturday matchup against the Kemper County Wildcats netted a win for the Rookie team with a score of 28-14, ranking them second in their district. Pictured above: #22 Jammion Williams #66 Keterrence Williams and #68 Meekhail Greer show hustle on the field during Saturday's game. The Colts will travel to Carthage this Saturday, October 13. (Photo by Sherri Reeves)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HOLIDAY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 4:00 P.M.

PESTICIDE TRAINING

Private Pesticide Applicator training and certification will be hosted by Holmes County Extension on Monday, October 22 at the new extension office at 1 p.m. in Lexington. The training is for farmers or anyone needing certification for private use of "restricted use" pesticides. The certification is not for commercial application. On site registration is \$20 per person. Call 662-834-2795 for more info. 10-11,18

H.O.M.E.

The Humanitarian Organization for Moral Empowerment will host a masquerade banquet on Thursday, November 1, at 6 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Building in Lexington. 10-11,18

CANCER RUN & WALK

A Cancer Awareness Walk and Run 2018 will be held on Saturday, October 20, 8 a.m. at the Mileston Community Center in Mileston. Call 601-832-6487. 10-11,18

DURANT LIBRARY

The Durant Public Library will have a Fall Coloring Contest through Tuesday, October 23. See your librarian for details. Friends of the Library will judge pictures and winners are to be announced on Monday, October 29. Call for more details at 662-653-3451. 10-11,18

ADDICTION HELP

Get help for your loved ones who need treatment. Intervention is key, visit <https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/intervention-101.html>

Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call for free screenings and referrals at 1-800-431-1754. 10-11,18

FBC DURANT

First Baptist Church in Durant will host revival services from Sunday, October 28 through Wednesday, October 31. Services will be at 6 p.m. on Sunday followed by a fellowship meal. Services Monday through Wednesday will be at 7 p.m. Worship is open to everyone. 10-18,25

ST. JOSEPH C.O.G.I.C.

St. Joseph C.O.G.I.C. in West will host the Wallace Family and Friends Day program on Sunday, October 28 at 11 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. 10-18,25

The Pastor and Wife 18th Year Appreciation will be held on Sunday, October 21, at 1:30 p.m. with Sunday school at noon. 10-18,25

SWEETWATER C.M.E.

Sweetwater C.M.E. Church in Lexington will celebrate its 171st Church Anniversary on Sunday, October 28 at 2:30 p.m. 10-18,25

LEXINGTON LIBRARY

Lexington Public Library will hold its monthly Third Thursday movie event for children on October 18 at 3:15 p.m. Third Thursday is co-sponsored by Friends

of the Lexington Public Library. A parent or responsible caregiver must accompany any child under 9 years of age. For movie title and further information, please call 834-2571. 10-18

GUIDING LIGHT

Guiding Light C.O.G.I.C. in Lexington will hold a Pastor Appreciation Service on Sunday, October 28 at 1:30 p.m. 10-18,25

SHROCK U.M.C.

Shrock U.M. Church in Goodman will hold its Annual Fall Revival from Sunday, October 28, through Tuesday, October 30 at 6:00 nightly. There will be a covered dish supper on Tuesday at 6 p.m. 10-18,25

EPWORTH U.M.C.

Epworth U.M. Church in Lexington will host the Epworth U.M. Women Annual Walk/Run to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness on Saturday, October 27 with registration at 7 a.m. and the walk/run starting at 8 a.m. 10-18,25

WESLEY YOUTH FOUN.

The Wesley Youth Foundation is co-sponsoring a cancer awareness walk on Tuesday, October 30 at 8 a.m. at Mileston Middle School. 10-18,25

MEDAL OF HONOR

A Medal of Honor presentation will be given posthumously at the grave site of

Pvt. Milton Lee Olive on Thursday, November 1. A ceremony will be held on the grounds of the Holmes County Courthouse to present the medal to the Olive family at 10:30 a.m. The headstone mounting will be at noon at the Ebenezer grave site followed by an honor guard presentation. 10-18,25

WEST M.B.C.

West M.B. Church in West will host its annual Senior Citizens Day program on Sunday, October 21 at 11 a.m. 10-18

MEMBER



MISSISSIPPI PRESS ASSOCIATION (USPS 247-680) HOLMES COUNTY HERALD

Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, Mississippi by Holmes County Herald, Lexington, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Holmes County Herald, P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095. Published each Thursday at 308 Court Square, Lexington, MS 39095. Telephone 662-834-1151; Fax 662-834-1074; Email hcherald@gmail.com; Website www.holmescountyherald.com

Editor Matthew Breazeale...Gen. Manager Julie Ellison...Gen. Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Holmes County - \$35.00

In Mississippi - \$40.00

Outside Mississippi - \$50.00

Senior Citizen's Discount

\$1.00 off above

Kosciusko Monument Company
225 HWY 12 W. • 662.792.4139
"The Best Prices In Town."

NEW TO DURANT AREA **AFFORDABLE FUNERAL HOME OF DURANT, LLC**
~FUNERAL SERVICE PLANS ~ CREMATIONS ~LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES
Providing EVERYBODY Quality Funeral Service at an AFFORDABLE PRICE

\$2,999.00

This Deal Package Includes:

- Transfer of Remains to Mortuary Including Vehicle.....\$999.00
- Embalming\$2000.00
- Other Preparations of the Body.....Included (Cosmetology, Hair Care, Grooming, Dressing and Casketing)
- Basic Facilities..... Included (Preparation/Holding Room, Arrangements, Office, Lounge and Equipment, Use of Facilities for Viewing or Wake)
- Use of Facilities for Funeral Ceremony Included
- Casket..... Included
- Hearse Included
- Visitor Register Book Included
- Thank You Cards..... Included
- Temporary Grave Marker..... Included

390 EAST MADISON STREET DURANT, MS 39063
662-653-3770
Created: April 1, 2018
** Certain Restrictions Apply**
** Prices Subject to Change without Notice**