

Mississippi offering drug addicts free help to get clean

Associated Press Up Mississippi has received a \$14 million grant to continue assisting addicts for another two years. The initiative offers free recovery stays and follow-up help to make sure, Mallette said, "those in recovery can transition to healthy and productive lives."

People addicted to narcotics in Mississippi can get free help to stop using the drugs through a statewide initiative.

Angela Mallette, an outreach coordinator for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, said Stand

Malette said the grant is the initiative's second from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration since 2017.

The Sun Herald reports the program will keep providing naloxone, known as Narcon, to first-responders for use in drug overdoses. The program also will continue medication-assisted treatment, which provides free medicines to help recovering

addicts deal with withdrawal symptoms.

The program also soon will offer a telemedicine option for recovering addicts who live in rural areas without doctors authorized to write prescriptions for those medications, "which don't make you high," Mallette said. People in Natchez, for instance, would be able to speak with a doctor in a telephone conference to discuss prescriptions, she said.

Mallette said the state's opioid problem is not as bad as in some other states. A total of 256 drug overdose deaths were reported in 2017, according to Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Director John Dowdy. About 74 percent of the deaths were attributed to opioids, he said.

Anyone in Mississippi can receive free drug treatment regardless of where they live in the state, with more details available by calling 1-877-210-8513 or visiting www.standupms.org.

State insurance commissioner approves auto insurance rate decrease

Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney announced Tuesday, February 19, that he has approved an 11.2 percent decrease in rates for one of the state's major automobile insurance consumers.

"This rate decrease is good news for consumers in our state," said Commissioner Chaney. "Competition and market share have turned around proposed rate increases by many companies. Additionally, new technology used in automobiles and in driver education by insurance companies has driven down prices for consumers."

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The remaining decrease will take effect in the coming months, for a total 11.2 percent decrease.

The Mississippi Insurance Department expects other companies to follow.

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***Durant man**

(Continued from page 1.)

ian's report said the horse showed signs of severe neglect, according to Durant Police Investigator Matt Ward.

McNeer has since posted bond.

McNeer surrendered the horse, named Sage, to Rocking R. Ranch and Rescue Inc. where she is being rehabilitated.

A photo of the horse was provided to the *Herald* by police officials, by was decidedly not published.



Lilly Word is pictured with her Reserve Champion Hereford Market Hog at the Delta District Livestock Show in Greenwood. Herefords are a new-breed-to-us here in MS that are gaining a modest following. Lilly is the daughter of Justin and Dee Word of Owens Wells.

(Photo by Betsy Padgett)



John Thomas Murtagh is pictured with his Champion Spot Market Hog from the Delta District Market Hog Show. This was John Thomas's last Delta District Livestock Show as an exhibiting 4-H'er.

(Photo by Betsy Padgett)



Chloe Word is pictured with her Champion Lightweight Barrow from the Delta District Livestock Show in Greenwood. Chloe is the daughter of Drennan and Susan Word of Lexington.

(Photo by Betsy Padgett)

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Weston Killebrew and Maeson Jolley participated in Pee Wee Lamb Showmanship in the 2019 Holmes County 4-H Livestock Show held Saturday, January 26 at the Holmes County Livestock Barn in Lexington.

(Photo by Julie Ellison)



From left, Ollie Maye Mitchell, Mitchell Word and Lilly Claire Word, handler, participated in Pee Wee Goat Showmanship in the 2019 Holmes County 4-H Livestock Show held Saturday, January 26 at the Holmes County Livestock Barn in Lexington.

(Photo by Julie Ellison)