



A New Kind of Hero

I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep as the Father knows me. ~ John 10:14-15
BEHOLD A HERO of the

Obituary

RACHEL RODGERS O'KELLEY

Rachel Rodgers O'Kelley, formerly of Lexington, died May 6, 2019 at the Atwood Personal Care Home in Kosciusko, MS. Visitation was held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 9, 2019 at First Baptist Church in Lexington. Funeral services followed at 11:00 a.m. also at the church. Burial was in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Lexington.

Rachel was an accountant for several businesses including Weathersby Chevrolet-Buick and Hughes and Stotts, CPA until her retirement. She was a member of

First Baptist Church of Lexington.

Survivors are son John W. O'Kelley, III of Atlanta, GA; daughters, Carol O'Kelley Chandler of Madison and Judy O'Kelley Davis (Charlie) of Kosciusko; brother Wayne Rodgers (Nell) of Collierville, TN; grandchildren, Alecia Persac, Blair Chandler, Ben Chandler, Brent Davis, John Davis and Brian Davis; and great grandchildren, Houston Persac, Chance Persac, Baylie-Ballard Chandler, Phen Chandler, Chase Coleman, Sydney Coleman and Dylan Davis.



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Congratulations!

Raven Redmond-Johnson, daughter of Raymond and Marvie Redmond and wife of AJ Johnson, is a native of Lexington, MS. May 9, 2019, Raven graduated suma cum laude with her Master's degree in the art of teaching foreign/second language. She currently teaches Spanish at Holmes County Central School. Go Jags! Raven is also a member of the Lexington congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. Raven's goal is to teach at the collegiate level, eventually working at her alma mater, Mississippi State University. We salute Raven Redmond Johnson 2 degrees higher.

west: the cowboy.

A thousand head of cattle pass behind him. A thousand miles of trail lie before him. A thousand women would love to hold him. But none do. None will. He lives to drive cattle, and he drives cattle to live. He is honest in poker and quick with a gun. Hard riding. Slow talking. His best friend is his horse, and his strength is his grit.

He needs no one. He is a cowboy. The American hero.

Behold a hero in the Bible: the shepherd.

On the surface he appears similar to the cowboy. He, too, is rugged. He sleeps where the jackals howl and works where the wolves prowl. Never off duty. Always alert. Like the cowboy, he makes his roof the stars and the pasture his home.

But that is where the similarities end.

The shepherd loves his sheep. It's not that the cowboy doesn't appreciate the cow; it's just that he doesn't know the animal. He doesn't even want to. Have you ever seen a picture of a cowboy caressing a cow? Have you ever seen a shepherd caring for a sheep? Why the difference?

Simple. The cowboy leads the cow to slaughter. The

shepherd leads the sheep to be shorn. The cowboy wants the meat of the cow. The shepherd wants the wool of the sheep. And so they treat the animals differently.

The cowboy drives the cattle. The shepherd leads the sheep.

A herd has a dozen cowboys. A flock has one shepherd.

The cowboy wrestles, brands, herds, and ropes. The shepherd leads, guides, feeds, and anoints.

The cowboy knows the name of the trail hands. The shepherd knows the name of the sheep.

The cowboy whoops and hollers at the cows. The shepherd calls each sheep by name.

Aren't we glad Christ didn't call himself the Good Cowboy? But some do perceive God that way. A hard-faced, square-jawed ranch-hand from heaven who drives his church against its will to places it doesn't want to go.

But that's a wrong image. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. The Shepherd who knows his sheep by name and lays down his life for them. The Shepherd who protects, provides, and possesses his sheep. The

Bible is replete with this picture of God.

Eighty percent of Jesus' listeners made their living off of the land. Many were shepherds. They lived on the mesa with the sheep. No flock ever grazed without a shepherd, and no shepherd was ever off duty. When sheep wandered, the shepherd found them. When they fell, he carried them. When they were hurt, he healed them.

Sheep aren't smart. They tend to wander into running creeks for water, then their wool grows heavy and they drown. They need a shepherd to lead them to "calm water" (Ps. 23:2). They have no natural defense—no claws, no horns, no fangs. They are helpless. Sheep need a shepherd with a "rod and ... walking stick" (Ps. 23:4) to protect them. They have no sense of direction. They need someone to lead them "on paths that are right" (Ps. 23:3).

So do we. We, too, tend to be swept away by waters we should have avoided. We have no defense against the evil lion who prowls about seeking who he might devour. We, too, get lost. "We all have wandered away like sheep; each of us has gone



ERICA HAYMER Lexington attorney completes state bar leadership forum

Erica Haymer of Lexington has completed The Mississippi Bar's Leadership Forum Class of 2019. The mission of the Leadership Forum is to prepare Mississippi's young lawyers for future opportunities in leadership roles. Participants gain an understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to become effective leaders in their profession and community.

his own way" (Isa. 53:6).

We need a shepherd. We don't need a cowboy to herd us; we need a shepherd to care for us and to guide us.

He's not a cowboy, and we aren't cattle. He doesn't brand us, and we're not on the way to the market. He guides, feeds, and anoints. And Word has it that he won't quit until we reach the homeland.

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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
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
In Holmes County - \$35.00
In Mississippi - \$40.00
Outside Mississippi - \$50.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 4:00 P.M.

TRIAD
The Holmes County TRIAD and Holmes County Crime Stoppers, will host the Annual TRIAD (The Right Information And Direction) Luncheon on Wednesday, May 29, at 9 a.m. in the Lexington Multi-Purpose Building on MS Highway 12 east. All senior citizens are invited to attend. For more information call 662-834-1511. 5-16

BETHLEHEM M.B.C.
Bethlehem M.B. Church in Tchula will host its Spring Revival from Monday, May 20 through Wednesday, May 22, at 7:00 nightly. For more info call 662-528-1508. 5-9

NARCONON
Narconon New Life Retreat would like to remind families to stay educated on the signs and dangers of drug abuse. Methamphetamines and opioids are on the rise in both rural and city areas. Learn the signs and protect your loved ones from drug abuse and addiction.
The amount of deaths caused by Methamphetamines has almost tripled since 2014. To learn more, visit: <https://www.narconon-newliferetreat.org/blog/the-other-drug-epidemic.html>
Free Drug Education: Narconon provides free drug education materials covering a wide range of topics. Please call today for your free drug education materials at: 1 (800) 431-1754. 5-16,23

MVSU ALUMNI
The Mississippi Valley State University Holmes County Alumni Chapter will have a reception for all 2019 Holmes County students graduating from Mississippi Valley and those attending in fall 2019, on Sunday, May 19 at 4 p.m.
The reception will be held at the CMI building, next to Fred's Dollar Store.
The regular monthly meeting will at 3 p.m. on the same day. All alumni and friends of Mississippi Valley State University are invited. 5-16

LEBANON M.B.C.
Lebanon M.B. Church will host its Annual Women's Day Program on Sunday, May 19 at 11 a.m. 5-16

MARKER DEDICATION
The Pentecostal Heritage Connection will host the Historical Marker Dedication for Dr. Arenia Conelia Mallory on Thursday, May 16 at 1 p.m. at Saints Academy in Lexington. For more info email to: heritageconnection@yahoo.com 5-16

HEALTH COUNCIL
The Lexington Mayor's Health Council meeting for May will be held Wednesday the 22nd at the Lexington Multi-Purpose Complex at 10 a.m. 5-16

WEST GROVE M.B.C
West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will hold its Annual Family and Friend's Day Program on Sunday, May 26 at 11 a.m. 5-16,23

NCPDD
The North Central Planning and Development District area agency on aging will host an Over 60 Celebration on Wednesday, May 29, at the Montgomery County Coliseum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 5-16,23