

# What does your character say about you?

By Gary Andrews

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Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built."

Webster's Dictionary describes character as a distinctive trait, quality, or attribute; the pattern of behavior or personality found in an individual or group; moral constitution; moral strength; self-discipline, fortitude; reputation, a statement about the behavior, qualities, etc. of a person.

The Psalmist says in Psalm 106:3, "Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right."

Do people say you are a person of good character?

Character is not something given to anyone but a trait that has to be earned by believing in yourself and doing what is right. Character comes in two different flavors, one being good and the other being bad.

Character is talked about all through the pages of the Bible. We see that the Lord has developed individuals and kings with bad character and the results of their living is brought down and defeated by the Holy God.

In the book of Job, Satan is roaming about the earth wanting to test the Lord and God tells him in Job 1:8: "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears

## \*Living

(Continued from page 5.)

"psychological parenting" – the expert-driven parenting paradigm America embraced in the late 1960s – fails miserably at teaching children to put their emotions under the control of rational thinking. Emotional control is incompatible with children having a supposed right to express their feelings freely, one of the most powerful of the post-1960s parenting memes. Public schools that no longer teach critical thinking skills don't help the situation.

In danger of being forgotten is that American teenagers were once generally respectful, trustworthy, rational, hard-working, and the like. What was not so long ago the norm has become the exception to the teen whose feelings rule. The upshot of this is a dramatic rise in teen mental health problems since the 1960s. Some researchers estimate that today's children, compared with 1960s kids, are ten times more likely to experience a major emotional setback by age 16.

Put this all together with open adoption and you have a potential "I want to go live with my birth mother because she really understands me" soap opera when the adopted child hits adolescence. The fact is, your son doesn't know what is best for him. His birth mother doesn't know what's best for him, either. If she did, she wouldn't be engineering this from behind the curtain. Of the players, only the two of you truly know him and have his best interests in mind.

The further tragedy is that judges sometimes treat these situations as they would treat a custody dispute following divorce. Furthermore, the agreements you signed at the time of adoption put you in a legal bind here. Therefore, the best thing for you to do is get yourselves a family attorney who has had a good amount of experience in such matters.

God and shuns evil."

As we read the book of Job we find that Job did not give in to the temptation of Satan even though he was stripped of his family and wealth. Job held strong to his character and belief in God.

In today's society so many of us give in to the temptation of the world or Satan, and find ourselves struggling because we have jeopardized our character and belief. We even find people in the pulpits of our churches who are compromising God's Holy places with the works of Satan and his disciples.

The Apostle Paul told the church at Corinth, "Do not be misled; bad company corrupts good character." (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Your character is you. It is how you are going to be known to your family, friends, and peers. We are to pattern ourselves after the Lord Jesus Christ and know that after this short life on earth we will spend an eternity with Him.

### Durant student named to medical scholars program

Carey Williams, of Durant, was selected to participate in this year's Rural Medical Scholars Program at Mississippi State University.

This year's program runs through June 29. RMS is an opportunity for high school students between their junior and senior years to learn more about careers as family practice physicians.

The rigorous program provides significant insight into the academic requirements necessary to becoming a physician coupled with a real world look at the day-to-day practice of medicine and some of the issues relevant to the work and personal life of rural physicians.

2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
Town of Goodman  
PWS#: 260008  
April 2017

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper and Middle Wilcox Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Town of Goodman have received lower to moderate susceptibility rankings to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Joe Spell at 662-260-9001. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall, Goodman.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detect during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2016, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity, microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS							
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/AQL	Unit Measurement	MCLG MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
10. Barium	N	2015*	.0136	0.136 - .0136	ppm	2	2 Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal finishing; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2012/14*	.1	0	ppm	1.3 AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Lead	N	2012/14*	2	0	ppb	0 AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>							
81. HAA5	N	2014*	12	No Range	ppb	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
82. THM5 (Total trihalomethanes)	N	2014*	5.7	No Range	ppb	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2016	1.5	1-2	ppm	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

\*Most recent sample. No sample required for 2016.  
As you can see by the table, our system had no contaminant violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected however the EPA has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets the monitoring requirements for bacteriological sampling that showed no coliform present. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.  
The Town of Goodman works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

# Conservation Corner

by James Cummins  
Executive Director  
of Wildlife Mississippi

If you've spent much time traveling through Mississippi, especially close to dawn or dusk, chances are you have seen a red fox. The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is frequently found in and around cities and towns.

The red fox is a medium-sized mammal, with the general appearance of a small dog, having a pointed muzzle, prominent ears, black feet and reddish-yellow to tawny across the upper section of the body and whitish or grayish on the underside. The most distinguishing feature is its tail. The red fox's tail accounts for approximately one-third of its total body length and is bushy with the terminal portion being black, tipped with white.

The red fox prefers upland woods and farmlands with meadows, cultivated fields, pastures and woodlots, but can also be found in bottomland woods, especially adjacent to agricultural areas.

The main part of the red fox's diet consists of small mammals such as rabbits, mice and voles, but they also eat small birds, insects and a variety of plant foods, especially certain fruits. Occasionally the red fox will feed on carrion found along roadways.

The red fox is a monogamous animal and it is not unusual for them to be mated for life. They pair off and breeding usually occurs in January and February. Den sites are typically located in wooded areas adjoining fields, along wooded rivers or streams or in rocky outcroppings. A den can be excavated in a cut bank or gully, or a natural or abandoned

cavity may be suitable. Most den sites have numerous entrances. Dens are generally only used to rear young or as shelter from harsh weather.

Females produce one litter per year after a gestation period of 51 to 53 days. The litter size varies from 1 to 11, but 4 to 5 is average. The young are born in March or April; at birth the young are blind and weigh about 10 grams. They open their eyes at the age of 1 week. The young will first emerge from the den when they are about 3 weeks old. Both parents take an active role in providing food for the young. The young fox is weaned at about 2 months of age and at 6 months of age will begin to

## DURANT NEWS by Rowena Hill

Judy and Ed Hathcock visited Stacey and family in Yazoo City during the week.

Vacation Bible School is underway this week, Monday through Wednesday, at First Baptist Church. Prayers are for all in attendance.

Mrs. R.E. (Ann) Irby spent time with Cathy and family while recovering from recent eye surgery. We sure missed her.

leave the den and forage on its own. The females will reach sexual maturity and first breed at 10 months of age.

It is interesting to note that there was a debate as to whether the red fox species in Mississippi is the introduced European subspecies or the native American red fox. The red fox was not always present over much of the state when it was forested, although it may have been present

Mrs. Dot Blanton is home after a good visit with Beth and family in Fort Smith, Arkansas. We missed her a lot.

Our church and community have recently lost two of its best citizens and faithful church members, Frankie Farmer and Mitch Land. All will miss them for a very long time. May God bless the families and give peace and comfort to each.

in the Blackland Prairies. Land clearing for agricultural purposes provided suitable habitat and the red fox extended its range. Evidence now favors the view that the European subspecies never became well established and that the present day populations consist of various subspecies of native red fox.

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi.

# NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX EFFORT HOLMES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Holmes County School District will hold a public hearing on its proposed school district budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 on June 20, 2017, 10 A.M. at the Office of the Superintendent of Education, 313 Olive Street, Lexington, MS 39095. At this meeting, a proposed ad valorem tax effort will be considered.

The Holmes County School District is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$7,359,979.00. Of that amount, 17.47 percent or \$4,779,770.00 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$4,589,448.00. Of that amount, \$4,970,961.00 percent or 20.22% is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the proposed increase in ad valorem tax effort by Holmes County School District may result in an increase in the ad valorem tax millage rate.

Ad valorem taxes are paid on homes, automobile tags, utilities, business fixtures and equipment and rental real property.

Any citizen of Holmes County School District is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax effort, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

/s/ A. L. Meeks  
Dr. Angel Meeks  
Superintendent of Education  
Holmes County School District  
Lexington, MS 39095