

DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

Family and friends of Judy and Frankie Bledsoe look forward to seeing and being with them again soon. All are thankful Judy is feeling some better after spending time recently in a Jackson hospital. Prayers are for complete recovery following recent surgery.

Members of the Hill family are saddened that Jamie Hill Conner and family are now en route back to San Diego, California to make their home there once again after living in Millington, Tennessee for more than a year, where he was stationed with the U.S.

Navy. We pray for safety and happiness but they will be missed. We did get to visit with them during the weekend for which we are glad.

The congregation at First Baptist Church were happy to have our own Sandy Land as music leader Sunday and look forward to his return. The Lands were and are very special to our town and church.

Mrs. Betty Faye Edwards visited during the week with her brother William Henry Hathcock. He remains to be very sick. Keep William Henry and Betty Gale in your

prayers for recovery and return home. We sure miss seeing and being together after their move to Flowood.

Best wishes and much happiness to Mrs. Gale Sheppard. She was married Saturday in Alabama. Several Durant friends attended the wedding on the beach. We love and miss Gale a lot and pray for their happiness. Hope to see them often in Durant.

Jodi (Hill) and Derek May and three children of Stewart spent Sunday afternoon with the Hill family and especially with Jaime and her family before they left Monday. We probably will not be seeing Jamie and family again for a while. It's a little sad for all of us. It's a very long trip from Durant to San Diego, California.

All are very thankful that Pat Burrell continues to

improve from a recent accident at their home. Nell is still pretty much home bound. Prayers continue for the family. Maybe they would like to hear from friends.

We sure miss seeing and being together in church with Plez White. He hasn't felt well enough to attend for some time. May God give him peace and know we care and look forward to being together when he's up to it.

Former resident Valerie Hawkins Farmer has returned from a nice trip to Puerto Rico with her son Richard and his wife.

My grandson Jay Higginbotham of Clinton is spending time with his grandmother, this writer, and cousins Mark Underwood. I drove to Central Hills Baptist Retreat last Friday to bring him home with me after a week there with others from Clinton.

College not for everyone

One of our long time bookkeepers is moving away and we have been searching every unemployed as well as employed person in the area that has had some experience with the skills we need for this job. It brought back memories of my work history.



Peggy's Take

During bookkeeping class one day the State Farm agent came in looking for a part-time employee. He asked the instructor who was a good typist and she told him I could type

100 words per minute and was proficient with shorthand. I was hired on the spot. I was fourteen years old and that was the beginning of my employment. I gained so much experience from this job by working after school and on Saturdays that by the time I graduated, I had valuable experience that others seeking employment did not have. I went from there to a bigger insurance agency to a larger business and from there on and on until I was the office manager and personal assistant in a sizeable health care facility. By this time I had knowledge of several business machines – payroll, accounts receivable and payables and most of all “people skills.” I was hired for these jobs over persons who had graduated college. I had experience and I was blessed.

These times are just not the same. Eighty percent of the young adults graduating have had no work experience. At the least not the kind that would render the types of jobs for which I was qualified. College graduates now that are seeking employment are asked for experience. How can they have knowledge of the work place, they have been in school for the past four years? It seems a vicious

cycle – no experience no job even with a degree. We too are looking for some knowledge of our systems for new employments. Several of our last employees were unable to work a calculator, one of the simplest of machines.

One of my children is a music major, a band director by trade, the other fitness management, (he is an excellent athlete), both working with us as a retail grocery supervisor. One is an elementary education major and does use her degree some. I am not saying high school graduates should not go to college, not at all. I am saying college is not for everyone.

I say this knowing if my grandchildren said no to college I would be the first to have a “spasm.” Encourage your young adult children to “walk” into the real world during their high school years. Let them experience life and decide what is best for their lives. We could not live without carpenters, plumbers, electricians, trash collectors, service people of all kinds, and yes, even grocery men and the majority of these people have no college degree. Our children are faced with so many decisions after high school graduation, you be the sounding board and keep an open mind, unlike one Meme I know.

School Days Sloppy Joe's
 1 pound ground chuck
 ½ chopped onion
 ½ cup chopped celery
 1 cup catsup
 1 T. brown sugar
 ¼ cup water
 ½ t. chili seasoning
 Brown ground chuck, onion and celery. Add next ingredients and simmer for 20 minutes. Serve on buns. Makes 4 servings.

*Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.

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

The Holmes County Consolidated School District will hold a public hearing on its proposed school district budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 on June 15, 2018, 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 and Durant Public School District is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$33,805,837. Of that amount, 16.1486 percent or \$5,459,214 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the Holmes County Consolidated School District proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$32,644,878. Of that amount, \$6,142,342 percent or 18.8156 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 Consolidated 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 Consolidated 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 time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

/s/ James L. Henderson
 Dr. James L. Henderson,
 Superintendent of Education
 Holmes County Consolidated School District
 Lexington, MS 39095