Durant News

by Rowena Hill

The congregation at First Baptist Church welcomes Interim Pastor Shane Thrash. He is the camp director at Central Hills Baptist Retreat in Possumneck, Mississippi. Thrash has preached at FBC for the past two Sundays and was officially called this past Sunday. Come join us, all are welcome in God's house.

Sympathy and love to the wife and family of Horace Bouchillon. His funeral was Friday. He was a good friend and lots of fun.

The former railroad depot in downtown Durant is beginning to look much better. It's exciting to see the progress and repairs taking place. Thanks to all who had a hand in getting the work done.

The choirs of Main Street Baptist Church in Goodman and First Baptist Church in Durant are continuing preparations for their Easter musical/cantata entitled "One Day" by Russell Mauldin. There will be one performance of the cantata on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Main Street Baptist Church.

Love and prayers go out to the Hoover family with the passing of Milton on Tuesday. May the Lord grant peace that surpasses all understanding.

Sympathy is extended to those of our town who have lost loved ones to injury and death.

The Fifth Sunday Singing is upon us. It will be this Sunday evening, March 31, at 6 p.m. in the First Baptist Church sanctuary.

Mr. Eddy Johnson recently spent time with his brother David and family in Alabama.

Mrs. W. M. (Virginia) Ingram had a good visit from one of her sons during the week. I need to learn which ones, maybe later.

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

Every now and then a hunter has to either replace or add a new property to hunt. Sometimes it's exciting to think about the possibilities and other times it's a chore because of all the scouting and preparing that must be done before the season. And if the land is of any size, it usually takes years to fully understand the patterns of animals on that property. I've had to do this several times since I started hunting. And I've had to it this year. I'm going to turkey hunt a piece of land that I've never hunted, even though it is adjacent to one I've hunted for years.

Since this turkey season will be my first opportunity on the property; it should help. Being able to roam around while calling for birds will force me to learn the boundaries and nuances a lot quicker than just sitting still during deer season. The best resource to understand the land, however, is still the owner. In my case, the farmer lives on the property and has eyes on it every day as he checks cattle. His home also sits in a place that gives him a good view of what's going on. While I may look at the land with an analytical perspective, he's view is pragmatic. I say, the animals ought to be right here. He says, that might be where they ought to be, but they are actually over there, because I see them in that location every day.

Sometimes in life thing just don't add up. What we think ought to be, isn't. How things should operate, doesn't. What should be the results, instead is something we never imagined. And all these things force us into that which we fear the most. Uncertainty. Uncertainty is a game changer. It not only thwarts growth, it paralyzes progress. It causes the once confident individual, to question every detail. Another word for uncertainty is doubt. So many times, we associate doubt with unbelief. We think it is it's opposite. It's not. The opposite of unbelief is belief. There's a big difference. One author defined doubt this way. It is a hesitation or uncertainty between two positions. Of course, these two positions are belief and unbelief. What most people don't understand about doubt is that, most of the time, it can be eliminated. How you ask? By pursuing knowledge without bias. And the best kind of unbiased knowledge comes from experts. They don't care what "ought" to be; only for "what is" – much like my farmer. So, what are you doubting? Most likely there is an answer, and it will be one that will allow you to start again, your forward motion. Don't wait too long. The season doesn't last forever.

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Conservation Corner

by James Cummins
Executive Director
of Wildlife Mississippi

Poison Prevention Week was March 17 - 23, 2019. The third week in March each year is nationally recognized to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them.

Over 3.1 million poisonings are responded to each year by the 55 Poison Control Centers across the United States. More than 93.5 percent of these poisonings occur at home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than 6 years old. You have to be extra aware in times of stress or when family activities are taking place. This is a common time for poisonings to occur.

The first step in preventing unintentional poisoning is to keep medications and common household chemicals out of sight and out of reach of children. You should store medications, cleaners and chemicals in locked cabinets and on higher shelves. Special locks and safety latches are available for cabinets and drawers.

If there are young children in your home, always ask your pharmacist for child-proof containers. One should never refer to medication as candy and don't make a game of taking medication. You should not let children play with a medication container, even if it is empty. You should teach children to ask an adult before putting anything into their mouths and since children like to imitate adults, avoid taking medications in front of them.

Never store chemicals or cleaning products in unmarked containers or food and beverage containers. There are many colorful drinking products on the market and each year thousands of adults and children mistake poisonous chemicals for what they thought were harmless drinks of lemonade or juice. One such chemical, anti-freeze, resembles some of the drinks on the shelves today because of its sweet taste and its lovely color.

There are a number of indoor and outdoor plants that can be poisonous also. Check with your local library for books on poisonous plants or your plant nursery for help with identifying what may be harmful.

Some pharmacies stock poison first aid kits. These kits contain syrup of ipecac, activated charcoal and Epsom salts. You would use these products only after seeking professional advice as to whether to induce vomiting or not. NEVER treat your child unless you have spoken to a poison control center, your physician or hospital emergency room first.

The number to the Poison Control Center is 1-800-222-1222. For more information, go to www.poisonhelp.hrsa.gov.

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is www.wildlifemiss.org.

Tobacco use by youth is rising, e-cigarettes to blame

Announced last week, Mississippi State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, joins the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in their concern over increasing tobacco product use among youth. More than 1 in 4 high school students used a tobacco product in 2018. This was a considerable increase from 2017, and was driven by a rise in e-cigarette use. Current e-cigarette use increased by 77.8% among high school students and 48.5% among middle school students during 2017–2018, erasing the prior year's progress in reducing e-cigarette use and tobacco product use.

"Use of any form of tobacco product by youth is unsafe, including e-cigarettes," Dobbs said. "The increase in e-cigarette use is alarming because youth nicotine use can lead to addiction and can harm the developing brain, impacting learning, memory and attention."

E-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among U.S. youth since 2014.

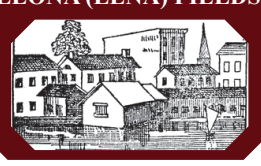
This recent increase in e-cigarette use among youth is consistent with observed increases in sales of the e-cigarette JUUL, a USB-shaped e-cigarette device with a high nicotine content that can be used discreetly and is available in flavors that appeal to youth. A single prefilled liquid nicotine JUUL pod contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

"Educators need to be especially vigilant because there are reports of e-cigarettes like JUUL being used in classrooms and school bathrooms," Dobbs states.

E-cigarette use can lead to traditional cigarette use and nicotine addiction. Smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Mississippi. For more information and resources about the dangers of e-cigarettes or tobacco products, visit www.healthyms.com/tobacco.

In and Around Lexington

by Leona (Lena) Fields

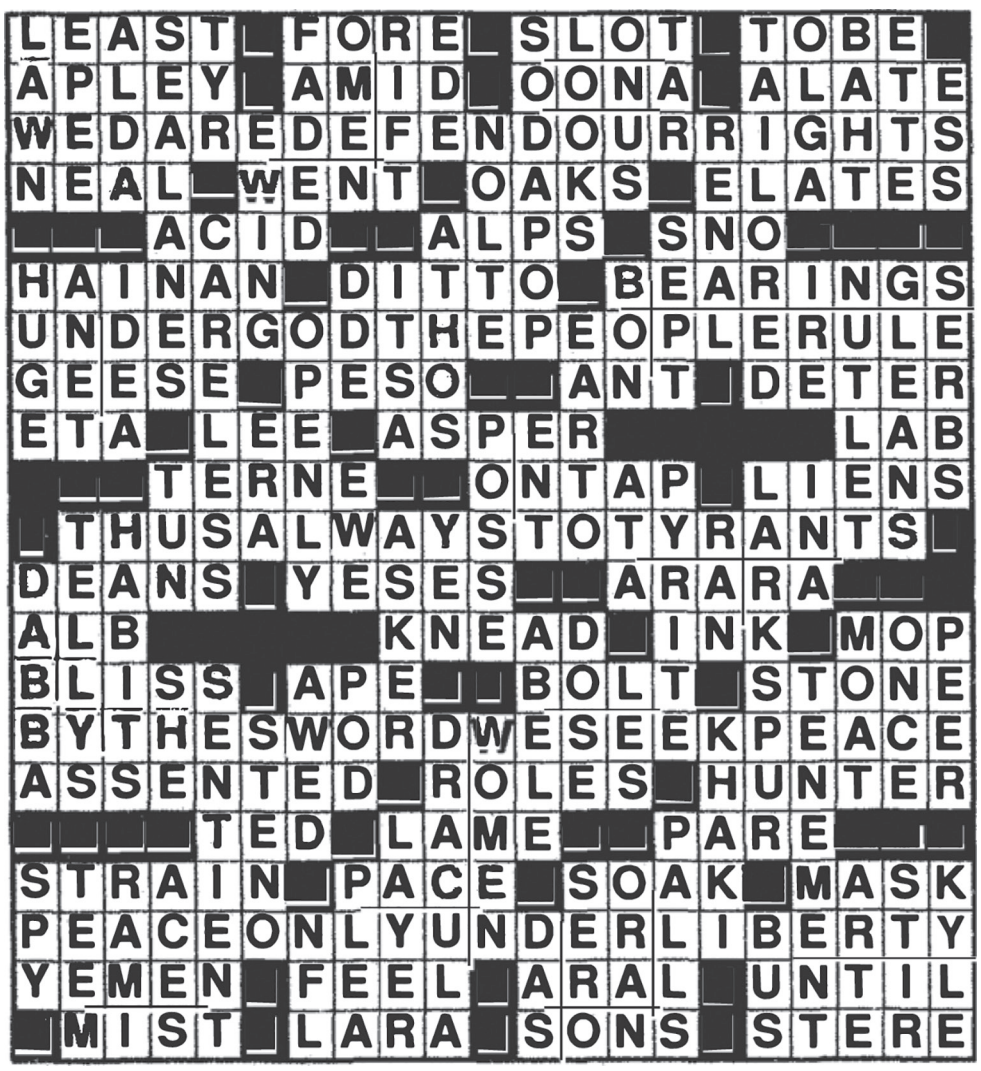


Mr. John "Smooth" Williams' mother passed. She was funeralized Saturday, March 23. She lived in the Mileston-Tchula area. I don't know exactly which town, but keep Mr. Williams and the rest of the family uplifted in prayer.

My mother was funeralized March 17. Her wake was Saturday, March 16. Some of the members and my pastor from Trinity came. Then on Sunday, some of my in-laws, another church member and five friends showed up for her funeral. Keep my family uplifted in prayer.

The seniors at the Senior Citizen Feeding Site at the Lexington Multi-Purpose Building had a combined birthday party for four people. They were Arthur Runnels, Thelma Washington and two others.

To get your news in this column call 662-834-1489.



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