

# West native learns principles of self-governance



Sara Burden White, daughter of Jason and Jolynn White of West, was selected to represent Winona Christian School at the American Legion Auxiliary’s Magnolia Girls State. Magnolia Girls State was held on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, June 2-7. Girls State is a prestigious program that teaches girls to work together as self-governing citizens. Young women learn government, and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens by forming a fictitious state of cities; electing public officials at the local, county, and state levels; and carrying out the duties of those offices. During the week long activities, participants assume roles in the fictional “National” and “Federal” political parties, run for and hold offices that mirror their state’s elective offices. By participating in their government, they learn the fundamentals about the legislative process, the three branches of government and parliamentary procedure. White was elected to the state wide office of Secretary of State. White is pictured above (at left) visiting Mississippi’s Secretary of State, Delbert Hosemann in his office at the Capitol in Jackson. (Photo submitted)

## DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

Many friends and family of Harris Binegar are saddened of his sudden and unexpected passing. He was a patient in a Jackson hospital. He will be missed for a very long time by family and many good friends. The memorial service was held Tuesday at First Baptist Church.

Mr. Charlie Irby received a visit from his family on Father’s Day. It was good to see them in church. We truly like seeing visitors and past members.

Prayers and best wishes to Mrs. Milton (Jean) Hoover. She wasn’t in church Sunday and wasn’t feeling well.

Mrs. C.H. (Dot) Blanton spent time with family

during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Crowder aren’t feeling at all well. We really miss seeing them, especially at church. We pray for and love them a lot. Hope to see and be out together again soon. They are missed by their many friends. Love to both.

I visited briefly Monday afternoon with Paul and Frankie Cain in the Boyette community. They live in the same spot the Frank Aldy family grew up when we were all growing up.

Have a good a safe week everyone. Maybe there will be more news next week.

May God bless each and everyone of you.

# Prepare your vehicle for summer travel

**MDOT**

Summer is finally here, and many families look forward to few days away from work. Wherever you are headed, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) wants you to ensure your vehicle is ready too.

“One of the most important things you can do before any road trip is to have your vehicle thoroughly checked,” said Melinda McGrath, P.E., MDOT Executive Director. “A routine vehicle inspection is a simple step that can save a lot of unwanted stress down the road.”

MDOT offers the follow-

ing tips to help make sure your vehicle is vacation ready too:

- Check tires for tread wear and proper pressure
- Check your battery
- Make sure belts and hoses are in good shape
- Replace your windshield wiper blades
- Check all brake and head lights
- Make sure your air conditioning is ready for the heat

Fluid levels, such as oil, brake, transmission, windshield, coolant and power steering, should also be inspected before hitting the road.

Another helpful tip that



# Cell Phones

I have a cell phone that I have with me all the time. However, it is not attached to the end of my arm and I do not look at it constantly. I don’t always immediately respond to a text. My friends realize that now and just patiently wait until I happen to check my phone.

I am amazed as I go about my day to see people who are obsessed with their phones. In restaurants I see people who are not engaged in conversation, but everyone is looking at their cell phones. I have begun to notice at places of business, employees are often preoccupied with their phones while they should be paying more attention to customers. I am often tempted to speak to management, but have yet to do so. Steve and I talk a lot about people who are phone obsessed. As teachers, we see it in students every day. The children are getting younger and younger who have their own phones.

I tell you that to tell you this. Last week-end my husband was without his phone for 2 days due to a swimming pool incident. In his defense, he was being a wonderful grandfather who forgot his phone was in his pocket when jumping in and joining his granddaughter in the pool. I can’t tell you how many times I started to pick up the phone to call and ask him or tell him something. He admitted to the same thing. A feeling of being lost was with us for 2 days. We wondered what we did 40 years ago before the cell phone age.

I remember telling my

can make a difference in an unexpected situation is an emergency kit including basic repair tools, jumper cables, first aid supplies, a flashlight and duct tape. Also, do not forget a spare car key, kept in a safe space.

These quick and easy steps can help you relax even more knowing your car has been prepped for this year’s road trip.

In addition to these vehicle preparation tips, MDOT offers free travel resources – MDOTtraffic.com and the MDOT traffic mobile app. These two resources keep travels updated on road conditions and also locate the nearest rest stops and welcome centers.

For more summer travel safety tips and information, like and follow @MississippiDOT on social media.

class one time that when I was their age, we had one phone in the house that was attached to the wall. I was thrilled when we got a long cord so I could walk around while I talked on the phone. One of my students told me he was sorry I was poor as a child. I laughed and told him it wasn’t poverty, that everyone had the same one phone household. When Steve came into my class that day they asked him about what the phone situation was at his house when he was young. You should have seen their faces when he explained that his family was on a party line. I’m sure they thought he really must have been poor!

I am not a big fan of Mexican food. My friends know not to invite me out to a Mexican restaurant. However, many of my favorite recipes have a Mexican touch.

I hope you will give these a try. Thanks for reading.

**TACO RANCH CHICKEN**

½ cup olive oil  
½ cup ranch dressing  
2 Tbsp. taco seasoning  
1 tsp. lime juice  
1 Tbsp. white vinegar

**PEPPER JACK RICE BAKE**

2 Tbsp. oil  
1 red bell pepper, chopped  
1 onion, chopped  
1 ½ cup rice,  
cooked according to package directions  
(6 cups cooked)  
1 (8 oz.) carton sour cream  
1 can Cream of Celery Soup  
2 (4.5 oz.) cans chopped green chiles  
1 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen  
2 cups shredded Pepper Jack cheese  
Salt and Pepper

Preheat oven to 375 degrees; lightly spray a 9 x 12 inch baking dish with cooking spray. Heat oil in skillet and cook red bell pepper and onion until softened. Combine cooked rice, sour cream, soup, green chiles, corn, cooked pepper and onion, and 1 cup of the cheese. Spread mixture into prepared dish; cover and bake for 30 minutes. Remove top and add remaining cup of cheese; cook for an additional 10 minutes.

**TACO RANCH BITES**

1 lb. ground beef  
1 (1 oz.) pkg. taco seasoning

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves  
Pound chicken breast halves to a ¼” thickness; place in a gallon size ZipLoc bag. Mix remaining ingredients to make a marinade and pour over chicken; refrigerate overnight or at least 8 hours. Grill chicken over medium high heat about 10 minutes, or until chicken is no longer pink in the center.

2 cans Ro-Tel tomatoes undrained  
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese  
1 (8 oz.) bottle Ranch dressing  
5 (15 count) frozen mini phyllo tart shells

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a skillet, cook ground beef until no longer pink; drain fat. Add tomatoes and taco seasoning and cook for minutes; remove from heat. Combine cheese Ranch dressing, and taco meat; spoon mixture into frozen shells. (You can freeze at this point.) Bake for 8 – 10 minutes, until cheese melts. (Add 2-3 minutes if baking frozen tarts.)

*\*Lee Ann Fleming is a Holmes County native, food columnist and has garnered fame for her recipes featured in the film, The Help. Fleming can be reached at lafkitchen@hughes.net.*

**Bridal Registry**

Jordan Pratt  
Drew Trehern  
June 15

Mackenzie McCleskey  
Kirk Douglas  
August 2

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A portion of these sales will go directly to the Jennifer Sterling Brown Animal Rescue of Holmes County to help our efforts in spaying, neutering, vetting and rescuing dogs and cats in Holmes County, MS. Have a Safe and Happy 4th!

JSB  
Just Stop Breeding

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