

# The Losses of a Fire

Back in the late seventies we were living in the southern part of Arkansas almost on the Mississippi River. The boys and I were home one Saturday morning and after smelling smoke we realized that our kitchen vent a hood was on fire and as the fire truck came rolling into our drive way our kitchen was saved from the disaster it could have been.



**Peggy's Take**

A very few years ago our grocery store in Winona caught fire from our breaker room and completely burned to the ground. Now only five days ago we lost our log house, our sanctuary, our place of peace and part of our hearts. We believe that lightning ran in on an electrical wire and hit the propane lines in our stove and actually blew up on contact.

Had it not been for a nephew driving by and seeing the smoke, we would have had nothing but ashes laying on the ground as the totally wood dwelling would have burned as quickly as a gasoline doused wood pile. What we have now is an absolutely charred mess. Where the stove stood is just a hole in the floor where all my pots, pans, dishes, and kitchen things lay inside on the dirt floor underneath.

Televisions, light fixtures, my prized antler chandelier, leather couches, pictures and paintings hang on to the tables or ceilings or melted into the floor. My dishes lay in a heap because the cabinets are not on the walls anymore. It is truly devastating.

The insurance company has asked us to list everything that was burned. I have walked the blackened and burned ashes and remains and, in some places, things are not even recognizable. I know that I lost pictures of my boys, souvenirs collected through the years, and paintings that were painted by friends that I will never see again and can never be replaced.

This is utterly the most shocking and upsetting thing that has ever happened to the "things" in our lives. We are determined to rebuild a house here on this piece of our shelter and sanctuary and for years to come we pray that our children and their children's' children will feel the peace and contentment that we have always known here at this place.

And yes, even through all this burned ruin, I still cook.....Just in another kitchen..... This is a really easy recipe and all you need to add is scrunchy bread and a salad.

### Italian Chicken and Rice

Brown 1 pound of cut up chicken breast in a skillet; add 3 cups of fresh vegetables, I use broccoli, carrots and red peppers, and cook until crisp tender; and then add 1 can of chicken broth and bring to a boil. Stir in 2 cups of instant rice, uncooked; ¼ cup of Italian dressing; and ¼ cup Parmesan cheese; and cook five minutes until liquid is absorbed.

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

# Nursing home staff praised for hard work



Lexington Manor Senior Care has enacted many changes in the past months, even adding additional staff, during the COVID-19 pandemic. A family member of one resident stated, "There is no cure. What could the nursing home do any different, some might ask? The only thing their staff could do any different is stay home in the safety of their own homes and avoid exposure of this virus that surrounds all the workplaces. But they have not. They choose to go to work each day and continue to care for the residents during this pandemic." The family member added, "The nursing home staff loves my mother-in-law, and all the residents like their own family." Pictured above are, front row (from left): Deanna McGee (sitting in blue PPE gown) from Durant, Aubrianna McBride (yellow) from Kosciusko, Mary Ridley (yellow) from Durant and Rowena Gordon (sitting in white) from Lexington; Back row (from left): Linda Booker (white) from Lexington, William Robert Shirley (blue) from Coxburg, Shawta Meeky (white) from Lexington and Connie Friend (blue) also from Lexington. (Photo Submitted)



Pictured above, back row (from left): Andrea Roby (yellow PPE gown) from Durant, Doris Cane (white PPE) from Durant, Amanda Harrell (yellow) from Lexington, Kenon Allen (yellow) from Sallis, Ann-Marie Spence (white) from Pocahontas, Tangi Dowell (white) from Kosciusko, Christy Bush (blue PPE gown) from Lexington, Laura-Ashley Thornton (yellow PPE gown) from Pocahontas. (Photo Submitted)

Stay connected to your community by subscribing to the

**HOLMES COUNTY HERALD**

Serving Holmes County Since 1959

Sign-up Online Anytime • 24/7

[www.holmescountyherald.com](http://www.holmescountyherald.com)

PayPal is Back!

**PayPal**

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

THE AMERICAN LEGION and the Holmes County Herald remember that

**FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.**

**MEMORIAL DAY 2020**

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)