

Adversity makes you stronger

May 8, 2020, sometimes it seems as if it was years ago, another lifetime perhaps, and then it seems as if it were only a few days ago that we stood by and helplessly watched our place of serenity, a place we had planned and dreamed about for many years go up in flames and smoke. Lightning had struck our log home and when the flames hit the big propane stove, it blew up leaving a big gaping hole in the floor and the ceiling. At the end all that was left was the outside walls and the roof.

Last week, nine months later, the inside once again is in place. Some of the logs and vaulted ceiling are still somewhat charred from the flames but some say it only adds character. The furniture that could be saved has been cleaned and set back in place, it too somewhat scorched, but there. We have cleaned the left-over saw dust and dust left from

the saws off the floors and surfaces and it's ready to be lived in again, even with its scars.

As we were cleaning and placing the cleaned furniture and hanging pictures and laying down rugs, I remembered things that were once there on tables, on walls, and now they are gone forever. My insurance agent told us that we would realize things that we had not thought about losing until we were back to re-doing all the inside.

That's true. I lost pictures of my family, my grandchildren, mementos that were sitting here and there that had been given to us with birthdays and Christmases, now only memories. Some of my mother's and grandmother's cherished cast-offs are not there anymore and just so many things that I had forgotten that were in our little house are gone forever. I've heard that a devastating fire is almost comparable to death, and that's true, a death

of treasures.

But, just like the Phoenix, this house, this treasure has risen again. Maybe not as before but better because, like it's owners, its seen good times and its seen bad times, almost lost forever and yet here still waiting for many more memories to be made and lives to be lived. You just don't realize how resilient you are until you are faced with adversity and then you know your better and stronger for the circumstances you have lived through.

My porch will be ready once again to sit and look at the beautiful rolling pastures, the cows grazing, and drink sweet tea. I still invite you to come and sit a spell.

I try to always have, at the least, cookies to offer with my tea. This is one of my favorites my grandmother always had on hand.

OLD FASHIONED TEA CAKES

1 cup of melted butter creamed with 1 ¾ cup of sugar. Beat in 2 eggs and add 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract. (Sometimes I add lemon or orange.). Then add 3 cups self-rising flour. Knead dough on floured board and roll out and she just cut them in different shapes with a knife, I use a round cookie cutter. Bake 325* for 8-10 minutes. Allow to cool before moving off cookie



Peggy's Take

Political advertising available in the *Herald* for 2021 elections

All political advertising/announcements are on a first come, first serve basis.

All advertising must be paid in full before being published in the Holmes County Herald.

- **\$200 - Page One political announcement (one run only):**
 - **400 words with picture**
 - **500 words no picture**
- **\$300 - Page One top banner - must run minimum four times**
- **All other advertising at local rates. Call 662-834-1151 for more information.**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ALL CONTENT FOR ADS IS FRIDAY BY 5 P.M. FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK'S PAPER.



Hyde-Smith testifies to protect hard-won girls' and women's rights

Before Judiciary Committee, Miss. Senator highlights harmful effects of pending 'Equality Act'

Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) recently provided testimony on the harmful effects on girls and women that would result from provisions of the Equality Act (HR.5), a House-passed measure that would significantly alter how the United States addresses gender identity.

In testimony at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Wednesday, Hyde-Smith focused her comments on the effect the legislation would have on women's athletics and progress made by women since the passage of Title IX in 1972.

"Unfortunately, the Equality Act would undermine that progress, opening positions on women's teams to biological men – not just transgender athletes who have blocked the onset of male puberty and are living as women, but any male who simply says he identifies as female, whether transgender sheets.

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

or not," Hyde-Smith told the committee.

"This is the problem created by the Act when it substitutes the vague and open-ended term 'gender identity' for the word 'sex.' Gender identity can mean almost anything and, therefore, it becomes the exception that swallows the rule," she said. "Allowing male-bodied athletes to compete against females in sports like basketball would totally undermine girls' sports."

The Equality Act would amend federal law to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination.

The bill would dramatically expand coverage of the law to include public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Further, the definition of public accommodations is expanded to include places or establishments that provide exhibitions, recreation, exercise, amusement, gatherings, or displays; goods, services, or programs; and transportation services.

Among other things, the Equality Act would require access to a shared facility, including restrooms, locker rooms, and dressing rooms, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.

"God loves every one of us. And every one of us are as His creation, and we should all be treated with kindness, respect and dignity," Hyde-Smith said. "But ultimately, by pretending biological females and transwomen are the same for all purposes—which the Equality Act would do—we will move girls and women backward rather than forward."

Hyde-Smith also cited the recent enactment of the Mississippi Fairness Act, a state law requiring athletes to compete in the division of their biological sex at birth. She also noted that she is an original cosponsor of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act (S.251). The bill addresses compliance with Title IX provisions dealing with athletics to ensure gender is "recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth."

Holmes Goodman Campus announces 2021 Creative Writing Contest Winners



Pictured are the 2021 Holmes Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest winners. They are (front, left to right) Tniniyah Jones of Kosciusko, Camillia Goodloe of Canton, Dara Neagle of Goodman, Isabella Branch of Kosciusko, (back, left to right) Justin Porter of Yazoo City, Miranda Ahner of Goodman, Samantha Endsley of Flowood and Brayden Cargile of Madison.

English instructor William C. Moorer recently announced the winners of the 2021 Creative Writing Contest for the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus. First and second place winning entries are going to compete with other student writing in the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association (MCCCWA) contest and will also be published with the other campuses' winners in "Reflections," the Holmes creative writing journal.

Winners of the Poetry Category included Tniniyah "TJ" Jones of Sallis, first place for "Sestina on Bro-

ken Glass;" Isabella Branch of Sallis, second place for "Night Drives;" Justin Porter of Benton, third for "A Day in the Delta" and Honorable Mentions to Dara Neagle of Goodman for "Hair Shines Like Glass" and Samantha Endsley of Brandon for "Star Struck."

In the Short Story Category, Porter took home first for "What I Saw in Those Eyes," Branch placed second for "Reflection" and Neagle placed third for "Memories."

For the Literary Essay Division, Branch won first for "The Unintentional Harm: A Psychoanalytical Critique of 'The Yellow Wallpaper,'" Camillia Goodloe of Canton

placed second for "Bound: A Psychoanalytic Look at the Past, Present, and Future" and Brayden Cargile of Madison came in third for "A Feministic Magnification of 'The Yellow Wallpaper.'"

Finally, in the Personal Essay (Creative Non-Fiction) Category, Miranda Ahner of Goodman won first place for "Labor Day Weekend."

The competition was open to all students on the Goodman Campus of Holmes, regardless of their major, and entries were judged by the English faculty members.

For more information on the Creative Writing Contest, contact Moorer at wmoorer@holmescc.edu.