



When I was in the 4th grade, a fire took our brand new home and everything in it. One of the first purchases in our new home was a beautiful baby grand piano, that my mom was so proud of. On the day of the fire she watched through the living room picture window as the piano burned. When our home was rebuilt, one of the first things my dad did was gift my mom another piano. After my mom's death and years of it just sitting there keys didn't work and was out of tune. When my dad passed away, the piano came to our home, not to be played, but as something that meant so much to her and us as a family.

Recently, David and I were away and not knowing, our children had the piano restored- keys fixed and piano tuned. It wasn't until Christmas Day, as we had finished opening presents, that I heard the sound of music from the piano, played by Haley. Tears streamed with memories of my mom playing. It was a gift from my children that will be forever a special memory. The best gift ever !! Thank y'all so much.

Pam Denley Hall



Where Does Your \$5 Go?

John Beshears
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On December 10th myself along with Yalobusha EMA Director Stewart Spence and Duck Hayes met with Mayor Ayers and Town Clerk Rosalin Torrance about the Fire Rebate report that has to be done by December 31st of this year. This report is how we, as a town, account for the money we receive from the state each year along with the \$5,000 from the county.

As the conversation started it was determined that over \$22,000 should have been deposited into the interest earning account in the last six months: \$7,000 from a Homeland Security Grant reimbursement; \$10,000 from the state; and \$5,000 from the county totalling \$22,000. Town Clerk Rosalin Torrance told us that she had deposited the money from the state into the account but she had not moved the generator money back, \$7,000, or deposited the \$5,000 from the county. Torrance left the room to retrieve her paperwork. While out of the office Mayor Ayers checked the balance on the account and there was only \$451.97 in the Fire Rebate account with Renasant Bank. Also, it was discussed that Coffeeville was shut out at EEP in Southaven due to non-payment of two bills from June and July totaling less than \$1,800. Meaning, if a fire truck breaks down they will not work on it for us.

Torrance returned to the office with paperwork in

hand showing the reimbursement from Homeland Security, the State Rebate money deposited in the town account in late August and the \$5,000 check from the county. When it is all said and done the Rebate account should have \$23,365.26, a far cry from the \$451.97 that was in there as of the 10th of December. Torrance told Mayor Ayers that she would have the money in the account by December 19th.

Next chapter, where does your \$5 a month go?

In June of this year, before Ayers took office, the clerk moved \$10,000 from the Rebate account to help pay the \$33,000 truck note. This is not the first time Rebate money has been used to help pay the truck note: \$7,000 in 2024; \$6,000 in 2023; and an undetermined amount when we put a deposit down on the truck during original financing. When I had inquired about this Torrance's answer was that people just were not paying their bills, not the case.

From June of 2024 to September of 2025 the \$5 a month money generated \$33,833.94, more than enough to pay the truck note with some left over. When Torrance was questioned about this, she explained that she went by the physical year, meaning from October till May, eight months. Although the other four months were collected they were not applied to the pay-

ment and money was pulled from the Rebate account each year to help pay the note. Where is the money? I asked how much money was collected but not counted in June, July, August, and September of 2024 and Torrance returned to her office to get that figure. When she returned with the figures it was \$11,424, well over the \$10,000 she calculated being short. Mayor Ayers cringed at the thought of having to put another \$10,000 back in the Rebate account and basically said it could not happen by December 31st. I asked Spence, EMA Director, wasn't the truck payment a legal expense and he replied yes. I then ask the mayor when we could expect the money returned to the account? The mayor and the clerk agreed that it could be returned in six monthly payment starting in January of 2026 for \$1,666.66. The mayor also stated that the \$5 a month money would have an account created for it making it easier to keep up with.

In a nutshell, the \$5 a month collections more than pays the truck note each year and it is very necessary to maintain payments and keep our new truck. By the time this article comes out there should be \$23,365.26 in the Rebate account and the report done by December 31st. If not the state will shut the Coffeeville Fire Department down until we are in compliance.

Happy
NEW YEAR