

**BETTY'S WEEK****By Betty Shearer**

If folks driving on the streets and roads in and around Water Valley don't start being respectful of other motorists, we're going to have more accidents—and we already have enough. I had three very scary incidents last week. One was coming out of my driveway, early in the morning. I always look to my left, then to my right, then back to the left before pulling onto Highway 315. Even doing this I very soon found a small red sedan on my bumper. To catch me that soon, the car had to be traveling at a high speed. I immediately put my gas pedal to the floor and the old van will move.

Was up to 60 almost immediately. As soon as we cleared the Airways Drive and Camp Ground Road crossing, this vehicle passed me, yes on a double yellow line. It's double all the way to WV. When I got to the Shell Station I saw the vehicle in the parking lot. Should we endanger lives to get a cup of coffee or even a sausage and biscuit?

Next when I was going to Larson's to pick up lunch, another red vehicle was behind me at the turn lane off Blackmur onto Main. This time it was a small SUV. I pulled onto Main and didn't pick up very much speed—no reason to because there were several cars ahead of me and they were traveling at the speed limit, so I just stayed back a couple of car lengths.

This impatient driver behind me pulled out and passed me with at least five cars coming in the other lane. It was a good thing for him that I'd left space, otherwise he'd have had no where to go and he and at least one other vehicle would have been damaged and probably some folks injured. This was not bad enough. When I got to the turn at Larson's, he turned on his signal and I gave him plenty of room.

The parking lot was full, so I took the last parking space in the first lane, but this vehicle flew on around the lot and I thought it would park way on the other side. They did not even slow down, but pulled across on coming traffic back into the lane it had originally been in, still couldn't go any faster and only picked up a few slots. Now that was a lot of endangered people just for lack of patience.

Mel had several close calls on the Pope/Water Valley Road last week. Several times she was almost run off the road by motorists texting. Been there and done that and it is scary. Drivers on that

See Betty's Week **Page 6**



City electric department workers scramble to replace a utility pole Monday afternoon. The pole supports the three-phase electric line that services BorgWarner and was damaged in a brush fire Sunday. Electric

department manager Andy Hall (pictured) scheduled a two-hour outage at BorgWarner to perform the repair. See page two for additional photos.

— Photo by David Howell

Chamber Has Exciting Banquet Lineup

By David Howell
Editor

WATER VALLEY – The Water Valley Chamber of Commerce has an exciting lineup for the annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet scheduled Monday. Retired Brig. General and Water Valley native Roger Shields will be this year's Honorary Water Valley Ambassador.

Shields is a 1965 graduate of Water Valley High School and longtime promoter of his hometown. He had an extensive military career that spanned more than 38 years, 32 of which were full-time positions with the Army National Guard including his last full-time assignment as the Chief of Staff of the Mississippi National Guard where he was responsible for more than 3,000

full-time employees and an annual budget of more than \$420 million.

The speaker for the annu-



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al banquet will be Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) CEO and

President Blake Wilson. MEC serves as the private-sector state chamber of commerce and includes over 11,000 businesses. The organization has been the voice of Mississippi businesses since 1949. Wilson has served as CEO of the organization since 1998.

Monday's slate of events also includes the presentation of the annual Braswell Hatcher Award, the announcement of new officers and directors for 2016-17, the awarding of the Elliot Scholarship and Mayor Larry Hart's State of the City Address. The leadership will also change, as the gavel will be passed from Chamber President Tonya Eubanks to Toni Hill.

"We are excited about this year's banquet," Eubanks told the Herald. "Wilson has worked tirelessly to improve

our state's education, economic development, business climate and image,"

See Banquet **Page 6**

SCAA Seeks County Support For Dog Problem

By David Howell
Editor

WATER VALLEY – Members of the Second Chance Animal Alliance (SCAA) made a second request to county officials for support for animal care in the county.

The organization currently has an agreement with the City of Water

Valley for financial support for abandoned, neglected or abused animals picked up within the city limits, but at Monday's Board of Supervisor meeting the group explained a huge dog problem in the county often drifts into the city.

SCAA vice-president Mandy Beard explained that her organization regu-

See SCAA **Page 2**

Latest MDEQ Testing Indicates No Health Threat

By David Howell
Editor

WATER VALLEY – Speaking at a public meeting last Tuesday, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) officials reported there is no immediate health threat from the decades-old chemical release at the former Colt Industries/Holley Carburetor facility.

Citing the results from February testing to identify potential vapor intrusion from the trichloroethylene (TCE) that was initially detected at the industrial site in 1988, MDEQ Executive Director Gary Rikard told a group of 30-plus attendees that the results indicate the levels do not pose a risk to human health. Rikard and MDEQ remedial director William McKercher shared time at the podium fielding questions and providing updated information in the second meeting the agency has hosted in the second

See MDEQ **Page 3**



Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality remedial director William McKercher fielded questions for almost an hour during a public meeting held last Tuesday. The meeting was scheduled to

update citizens following testing back in February for a decades-old contamination the release of a degreaser from Holley Carburetor/Colt Industries.

— Photo by David Howell

Arrest Made In Burglary

By David Howell
Editor

OAKLAND – An Oakland woman was arrested last week after deputies linked her to a burglary on County Road 211 following a joint investigation by the Yalobusha and Tallahatchie sheriff's departments. Sheriff Lance Humphreys reported Juana Brinson was arrested on March 29, four days after furniture and antique hand-crafted picture frames were reported stolen from the residence on CR 211.

Brinson is charged with one count of burglary and one count of possession of stolen property after she gave statements to law enforcement officers indicating her alleged involvement in the crime. Humphreys said the break in the case occurred when the homeowner notified authorities after seeing the stolen property offered at a roadside sale on Hwy. 32 near Charleston.

Humphreys said his department received a call from Tallahatchie authorities about the stolen items.

"We were able to recover the stolen items and make

See Crime **Page 6**