

The Southern Tribune

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Thursday, August 16, 2018



Author J.G. Jakes (Jenny Sammons Massey) is a native of Shellman and Randolph County.

Randolph County native, author J.G. Jakes announces release of new Novel

GLENNVILLE, Ga., - "I Rise" by J.G. Jakes, the pen name for Jenny Sammons Massey, is a story filled with suspense, drama, a mother's love, the growing love of a couple and their determination to rid their town from illegal drug-related problems.

Sarah Cole is hired to clean up operations at Safe Families, an organization designed to counsel and assist young mothers on their road to recovery. But, upon arrival, she discovers the office of Safe Families has been poorly managed.

Alarmed and angry, Sarah reluctantly begins work with Paul Hines, the local District Attorney. Together, they hope to stop the festering drug problems in the community. As feelings grow, will Sarah accept affections or will hearts break?

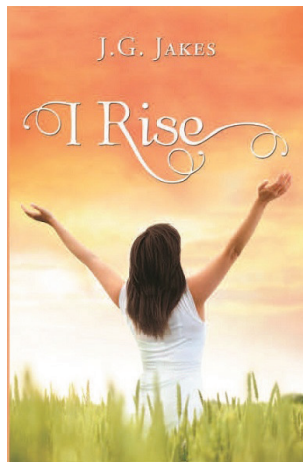
"There is a scarlet thread running from cover to cover within the pages of 'I Rise'", Jakes says. "As it comes to life, it stirs the heart and enlightens the mind. The greatest gift of 'I Rise' is that the reader's life will be changed as they learn that for every valley there is a mountain top. For every cause of despair, there is hope."

PRESS RELEASE

The City of Shellman intends to adopt a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes. The City will hold three public hearings on the subject of the tax increase prior to the adop-

About the Author

Jenny Sammons Massey, taking her pen name from her parents, was born and raised in Shellman, Georgia and presently resides in Tat-



Front cover of "I Rise", the most recent novel by Author J.G. Jakes.

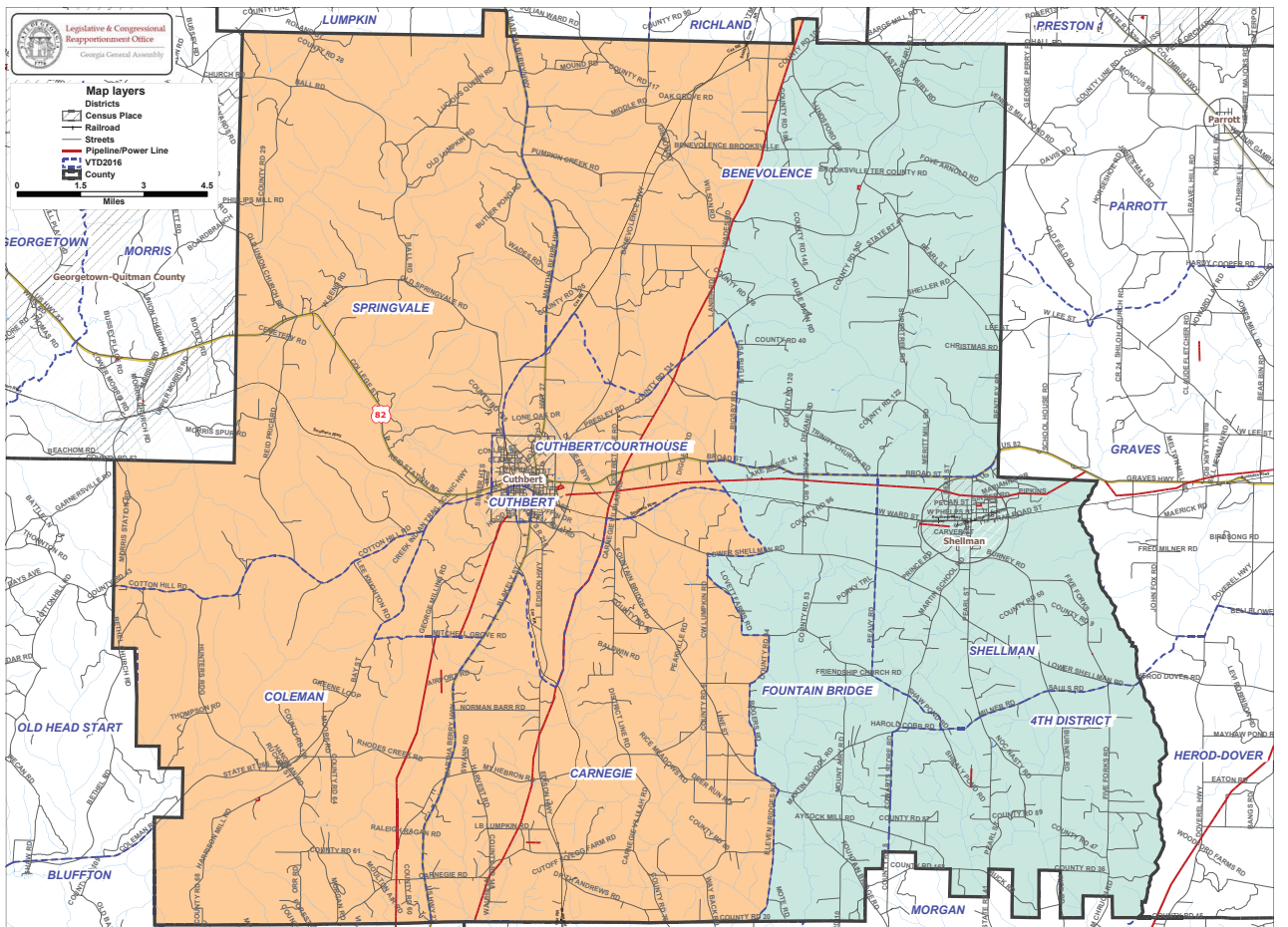
tnall County near Glennville, Georgia. She discovered a burning desire to fulfill herself as a writer by always choosing plots involving moral conflict within her characters. She strongly feels that writing enthralling tales attuned to the heart about issues that divide people could inspire situations to unite them. She sums up by saying, "I write suspense novels because I believe that when a person is tried—morally, spiritually, mentally or physically—their true character is revealed."

More information is available at: www.jg-jakes.com. "I Rise" can be found at Barnes&Noble.com, Books-A-Million.com, and Amazon.com.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Objections to Voting Precinct Consolidation voiced at BOC meeting

Proposed Randolph County Voting Precincts



This map of Randolph County shows the proposed Voting Precincts of Cuthbert and Shellman, created by consolidating the current nine precincts into the two shown on the map. Randolph County Board of Elections and Registration is proposing the consolidation and will be holding public hearings this week.

By CINDY MILLARD

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) met for their regular monthly meeting at 8 a.m. on Tues., Aug 14. Citizens comments were first on the agenda with Bobby Jenkins coming to the podium to voice opposition to the Proposed Closing of Voting Precincts in the County. Jenkins, chair of the Randolph County Democratic Committee, present-

ed a list of objections to the BOC. He also criticized the current two-member Randolph County Board of Elections and Registration (RCBER) (one-member short awaiting Cuthbert's appointment) as to qualifying Sunny Ghotra as a candidate in the recent District 5 Board of Education seat, questioning whether Ghotra met the residency requirement. Jenkins yielded

part of his allotted time to Candidate Joyce Barlow (D) who is seeking the seat of State Representative in the upcoming November election. Barlow spoke in support of Jenkins' objections.

BOC had some discussion on the Voting Precinct Consolidation at which time Todd Black, director RCBER, stepped to the podium to answer a few questions. It was mentioned by

a commissioner that many people early vote; Black stated there are 21 days of early voting before an election. During this time several in the audience were out of order, loudly stating their disapproval of the Proposed Consolidation of Polling Precincts. Scott Peavy, long-time chair of the RCBER, stepped forward stating that they (RCBER) have

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CITY OF CUTHBERT

Tax increase proposed, Candidates nominated for Elections Board

By CINDY MILLARD

Cuthbert Mayor and Council met at 6 p.m. on Mon., Aug. 13 for their regular monthly meeting.

Among agenda items:

- A report from the finance and budget committee. Alderman Betty Jones reported that the committee had met and were recommending an increase of 1 mill, from the current 8.75 mills to 9.75 mills. It was also stated that back in 2005, the

millage rate was 9.5 and the City has kept it down below that for 13 years. (Millage rate is used in calculating property taxes.)

- Appointment to Randolph County Board of Elections and Registration (RCBER). Four nominations were made: Thomas Bailey, Marlon Gilbert, Bobby Jenkins and Sandra Willis. Mayor Steve Whatley requested that Council be prepared to vote and appoint one of these nom-

inations at next month's meeting which will be Wed. Sept. 12. The City's appointed position was vacated earlier this year when Ramel Thomas resigned to seek a seat on the Board of Education. Thomas won District 1 BOE in the recent run-off election. The City had previously tabled this appointment awaiting the outcome of the election, then the run-off election.

- Voting and Voter precincts. At the opening of

the meeting, Bobby Jenkins was on the agenda and spoke against the proposed Consolidation of Voting Precincts by RCBER. Jenkins, chair of the Randolph County Democratic Committee, spoke against the proposed Consolidation stating several reasons for his objections. Jenkins asked the City to support his objection and to make it known to the current two-member RCBER and

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ANDREW COLLEGE

Andrew College Convocation open to the public Academic Dean Karan Pittman to deliver keynote address

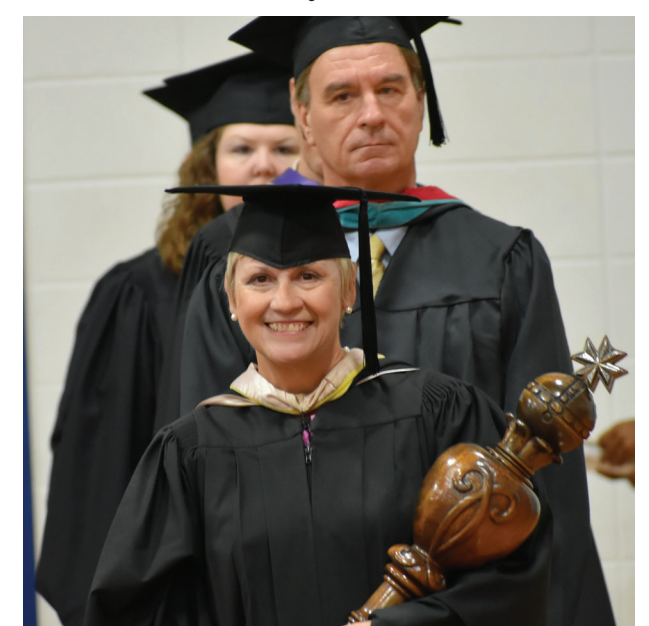
Cuthbert, Ga. (Aug. 14, 2018) - Andrew College officially launches the new academic year on its campus Thursday, August 23 with an opening convocation ceremony at 11 a.m. in the G. Clyde and Ruth Tarrer Jinks, Sr. Physical Education Complex. This ceremony marks the College's 165th academic year since its founding in 1854.

Academic Dean Karan B. Pittman will deliver the keynote address, titled "Andrew Means Excellence." A native of Randolph County, Mrs. Pittman has strong ties to Andrew College and the community. She graduated from Andrew with her Associates Degree in humanities and continued

her educational journey to Auburn University where she graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in social science education. Mrs. Pittman later graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with her Master of Science in library science. She is currently earning her Ph.D. in leadership studies with a concentration in business administration from the University of the Cumberlands.

For over 30 years, Mrs. Pittman was the director of library services at Andrew College. She taught English and English as a second language for several years. She is an advisor for Phi

ANDREW Page 6



Karan Pittman, of Andrew College, led the faculty into the Convocation ceremony in August 2017. This year, in her new role of academic dean, she will deliver the keynote address.

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of Randolph County

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member FDIC

Cuthbert (229) 732-3791
Shellman (229) 679-5344

Faith Baptist Church
50th Homecoming
10 a.m. Sun., Sept.
23, 166 S Webster St.,
Cuthbert
Rev. Jeff Giddens &
Rev. Herman Parker
Lots of singing; stay
for lunch!

Lunsford Funeral Home
Cuthbert, Georgia
(229) 732-2148
www.lunsfordfuneralhome.com

Curry Funeral Home
Shellman, Georgia

Boudleaux Bryant Festival
October 13
Shellman

MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF EDDIE FAIRBANKS



To the Citizens of Randolph County:
The Randolph County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) is an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for all citizens in Randolph County by providing professional law enforcement services through objectiveness, fortitude and accountability for all citizens.

RCSO hopes everyone had a great summer and has a great school year!

We would like to remind everyone that school began on Mon. Aug. 6 and to please drive with caution, as children are now walking to school and to the bus stops. We would like to thank: The Pilot Club, Diverse Power, Paytel Communication, Kay's Store, Kimble's Food, Summit Foods and Purity lodge #93 for the donations of school supplies and paper. We would also like to thank all the parents for bringing the children out to our annual back to school bash give away, helping

make it a success.

For the month of July, RCSO answered a total of 95 calls for service, served a total of 140 civil papers and wrote a total of 54 traffic citations.

RCSO would like to make everyone aware of fake currency that is traveling throughout the area and surrounding counties. Also, be aware of any IRS phone scams. Do not give any personal information over the phone!

Sheriff Eddie Fairbanks

The Southern Sounding Board - Letters to the Editor -

SCV supports Law Enforcement

Dear Editor:

Thursday, August 16, 2018 is proclaimed as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day by the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) organization. SCV Camps, Brigades and Divisions in all Southern states will show their support for their local law enforcement officials on this day by any and all means appropriate. We offer our most sincere thanks and appreciation to those who place their lives in danger on a daily basis protecting and serving the public.

Whereas, vicious and despicable attacks are being waged against law enforcement officers in America and Whereas, law enforcement officers are the domestic protectors of our

citizens, our society and our way of life, and Whereas, responsible citizens have a moral duty to support the institutions and citizens who place their lives in peril every day so that our society can enjoy the rights, privileges and freedoms enumerated in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights by America's founding fathers, who were primarily Southern gentlemen from Virginia, we the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Southwest Georgia hereby make it known that we support and back the Blue, America' Law Enforcement Officers.

James W. King
SCV Camp Commander
Albany, Georgia

Voter Suppression in Randolph County

Dear Editor:

Voter Suppression is an attempt to influence the outcome of an election by preventing, confusing, or discouraging specific groups of people from voting. Randolph County is planning to close 7 of the 9 voting places throughout the county. This action would leave only 2 voting places in the county, 1 in Shellman and 1 in Cuthbert.

This proposal is unfair because: 1) it creates a hardship on elderly and poor voters who will have to travel farther to vote; 2) this decision was made by a 2 member Board of Elections and Registration (1 person shy of a dictatorship); 3) no articles appeared in the local papers to alert citizens of the proposed changes; 4) this change is being proposed in the middle of the election cycle. Voters

went one place in the Primary but will have to vote in another place for the General Election in November, which will lead to confusion. Up to 40% of the voters will be affected; 5) Georgia law 21-2-262 states in part that consolidation of precincts should promote the convenience of voters and the public interests. This plan would do the opposite.

The right to vote is sacred and must be treasured. Many gave their lives for this important right. Please contact your representatives on the Cuthbert City Council, Shellman City Council, and Randolph County Board of Commissioners to ask them to STOP this plan.

Bobby Jenkins, Chair
Randolph County
Democratic Committee

Editor's note: The Randolph County Board of Elections and Registration published a "Notice of Consolidation of Voting Precincts" and a notice of "Public Meeting" in the Thurs., Aug. 9 issue of The Southern Tribune. Both ads are published again in this week's issue of Aug. 16 on page 4.

The Southern Tribune welcomes your submissions of Letters to the Editor for The Southern Sounding Board editorial and comment section. Letters may be submitted via email: southerntribune@gmail.com, US mail to PO Box 257, Cuthbert, GA 39840, or hand deliver to 66 Maple St., Cuthbert.

All letters must be signed to be considered for publication. Please include your city or county of residence to include with signature for publication. Also include contact information (email, phone or mailing address) which will not be published. All submissions are subject to editorial review.

Letters and comments published do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper or its staff.

The Southern Tribune

P.O. Box 257, Cuthbert, Ga. 39840, Phone: 229-732-6016
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Cindy Nelson Millard - Publisher/Managing Editor
Belinda Deal - Office Manager
Caleb McFather - Sports and Feature Reporter
Cindi Moore - Paginator

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Submit NEWS to SouthernTribune@gmail.com (Deadline: 2 p.m. Monday)
Submit LEGALS & RETAIL ADVERTISING to CuthbertSouthernTribune@gmail.com (Deadline legal: 12 p.m. Thursday • One week prior)

BOC Continued from Page 1

been thinking about and discussing this for four or five years, and not to look to Todd as the cause of this proposal. It was also stated that there is a power point presentation which Todd will present at the Public Hearings. In reference to citizens voicing opinions on the proposal, someone on the BOC stated, "That's

what public hearings are for."

Public Hearings on the Proposed Consolidation of Voting Precincts will be held at 6 p.m. Thurs. Aug. 16 in the Government Center Courtroom, 93 Front St., Cuthbert; and, 6 p.m. Fri. Aug. 17 at the Train Depot, 58 Park Ave., Shellman. RCBER will hold a meeting on Aug. 24 to consider this proposal.

After the Citizens'

Comments item on the agenda, the meeting progressed as usual. Minutes were approved from the meetings of July 10, regular meeting; July 26 budget work session; July 30 work session; July 31 work session; Aug. 10, 9 a.m. and Aug. 10, 6 p.m. public hearings. After approval by the BOC, minutes are posted on the County's website: randolphcountyga.com

COUNCIL Continued from Page 1

Commissioners. Jenkins yielded part of his speaking time on the floor to Joyce Barlow (D), who is running for State Representative District 151 in the November election, and supported Jenkins' position.

(RCBER is comprised of three members; one ap-

pointed by Cuthbert, Shellman and Randolph Commissioners. RCBER hires and employs the Director of Elections and Registration, who works full time at the Government Center.)

- Radio-controlled Gas and Water Meters. Alderman Karan Johnson presented a committee report on Public Works. Council agreed to allow Stillwater

Engineering to begin doing a fee study of the City's gas and water meter readings. The study will take about a year. It is anticipated that the radio-controlled meters will save money, be more efficient, more easily answer customer questions about usage and billing and be able to more readily detect leaks.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX RATE AND PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE CITY OF SHELLMAN

The City of Shellman has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 1 mil. (Percentage over rollback rate.)

The City will hold three public hearings on the subject of the tax increase. All concerned citizens are invited to attend the hearings on this tax increase. The first public hearing will be August 20, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The second public hearing will be August 27, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The third public hearing will be September 3, 2018, from 6p.m. to 7 p.m. All of these meetings are at the Shellman City Hall.

NOTICE

The City of Shellman does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Shellman City Hall located at 51 Park Ave, Shellman, GA on August 20 at 10:00 AM and again at 3 PM and on August 27 at 10 AM and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section

48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2018 TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

COUNTY SCHOOL	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Real & Personal	12,790,704	12,291,495	13,034,164	13,451,877	13,538,527	13,802,826
Motor Vehicles	1,785,940	1,547,230	1,304,820	851,190	631,290	486,140
Mobile Homes	331,272	285,270	273,140	241,790	274,930	278,360
Timber - 100%						
Heavy Duty Equipment						
Gross Digest	14,907,916	14,123,995	14,612,124	14,544,857	14,444,747	14,567,326
Less M & O Exemptions						
Net M & O Digest	14,907,916	14,123,995	14,612,124	14,544,857	14,444,747	14,567,326
State Forest Land Assistance Grant Value						
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	14,907,916	14,123,995	14,612,124	14,544,857	14,444,747	14,567,326
Gross M&O Millage	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Less Rollbacks (
Net M&O Millage	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Total School Taxes Levied	\$149,079	\$141,240	\$146,121	\$145,449	\$144,447	
Net Taxes \$ Increase		-\$7,839	\$4,881	-\$673	-\$1,001	-\$144,447
Net Taxes % Increase		-5.26%	3.46%	-0.46%	-0.69%	-100.00%

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

August 16

Jay Tulley
R. T. Lumpkin, Jr.

August 17

Faye McCrary
Beth Curry McMath
Larry Shellhouse
Adalynn Grace Sanders

August 18

Daphne Hipp Sanders
Shirley Greene
Korie Hixon Moseley

August 19

Gina Schlumbrecht

August 20

Owen Jenkins
Bryan Bonner
Patricia Bradley
Bebe Puckett

August 21

Joan Lashley
Pat Sanders

August 22

Robert Blake Lamb
Yvonne DeVane
Andrea Ethridge
Harper Lynn Oliver
Alex Caldwell
Ann Camper

Anniversaries

August 17

Karen and Rand Ragan

August 19

Kelly and Jimmy Smith
Nancy and Tommy Brumbelow

RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Proposed Poll Consolidation presented to Voters

Consultant recommends consolidating from nine to two Precincts

By CINDY MILLARD

Advertised Public Hearings took place in Randolph County on Thursday and Friday evenings last week, during which Mike Malone, consultant, presented the reasons and recommendations to consolidate polling precincts in Randolph County into two, Cuthbert and Shellman where the public meetings were held. Malone's presentation was aided by Power Point visual slides as he began explaining that the County Board of Commissioners (BOC) and by the Board of Elections and Registration (BER) had asked him to make recommendations. Malone has attended two elections and visited all of the polling locations.

The first consideration presented was compliance with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Georgia Election Code sections 21-2 - 265 (d) and (e) and the SEB Rule 183-1-6-04. Malone stated that Randolph County is asked every Election Cycle to verify that all voting locations are acceptable for and adhere to ADA compliance. Of the nine precincts in Randolph County, only two are fully acceptable: Cuthbert and Shellman. All the other seven not acceptable.

Malone had photos of some of the ADA non-compliant issues which included doorways too narrow for wheelchairs, no handrails in bathrooms, no parking, no walkway, no ramps... and a health issue in itself: black mold on the walls of one of the polling precincts' bathrooms. In a fire station precinct, the polls would need to temporarily close if they should have to respond to a fire. At the Cuthbert (former) Middle School precinct, an open electrical box was observed and water fountain open to its plumbing

as well, ceiling tiles are missing or hanging (note: this location is no longer a Middle School). One slide stated "We need all the voting locations to be safe, accessible and temperature controlled to all voters of Randolph County, not for just some voters."

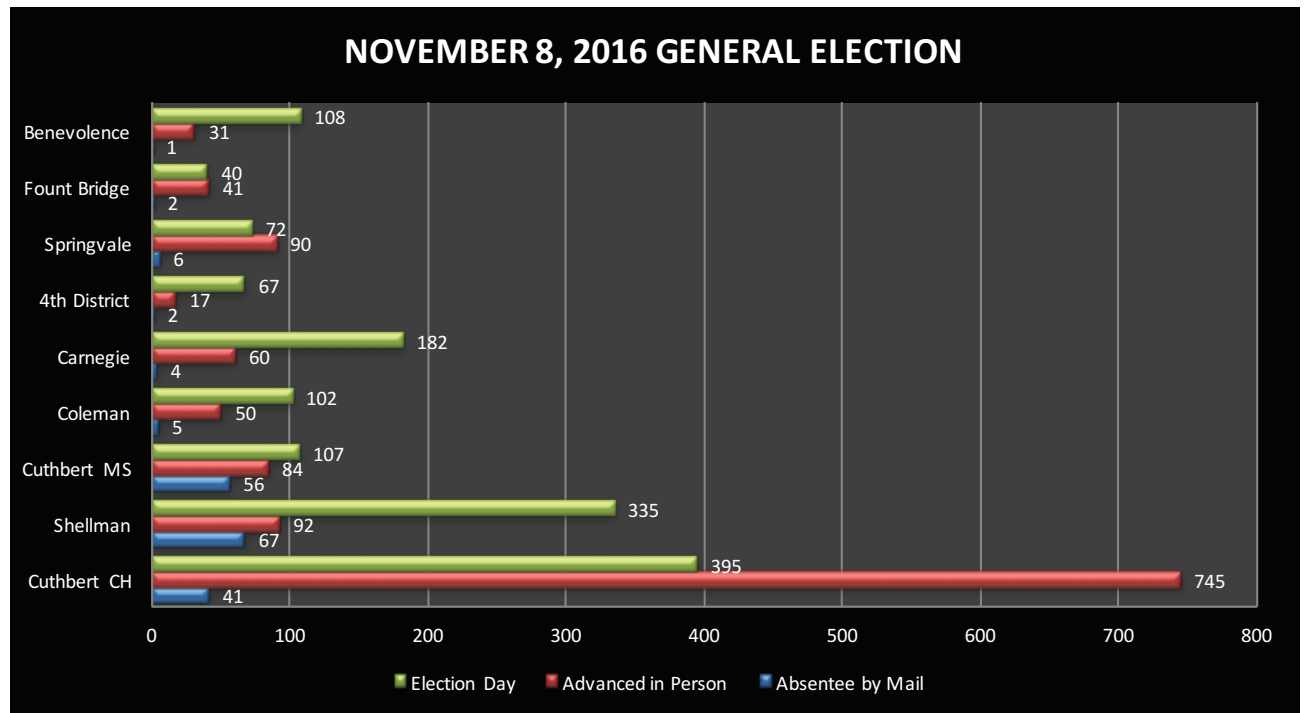
Chief Poll Manager Greg Holmes stated in the Shellman meeting that at the (seven) precincts there is no heat and no cooling; they are not climate controlled. Holmes said the Middle School roof leaks and some places didn't have running water, but the county was working on the water.

Budget and finances were, of course, a consideration in the recommendation to consider consolidating polling locations. In raw numbers of just election day personnel, there would be a savings of up to, or more than, \$7,000 for each closed precinct, as the requirement is to have three poll workers at each location from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. each election day. This savings does not include the cost of voting machines and logic and accuracy testing. Malone stated, "This is your money (the tax payers)." In a year of primaries, runoff elections and general elections - it adds up.

To the accusation of disenfranchising voters, Malone says nothing is farther from the truth. There is **Advance voting By Mail (ABM)** (also known as absentee ballots) for **45 days prior** to an election; **Advance voting In Person (AIP)** which is **16 days of early voting Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. with one Saturday** included. Malone had graphs tracking the votes in elections back to 2014, showing how many votes ABM, AIP and Polling (poll location) for all nine of the current Randolph precincts. He further stated that early voting, AIP,



Mike Malone presented recommendations to consolidate voting precincts at a Public Hearing at the Randolph County Courthouse / Cuthbert polling precinct on Thursday evening Aug. 16 and in Shellman on Aug. 17 at The Depot. The slide in the photo addresses the talking point of Voting Early and the goal of enhancing the voting experience. Malone is a consultant who is certified and served as Randolph's interim Election Superintendent. (Photo / Belinda Deal)



The voter turnout of the 2016 General Election (presidential election), which had the highest voter turnout of elections in recent years, is illustrated in this graph showing the method that voters cast their ballots in each precinct. Green means - day of election at the polling precinct; red means - early voting in person, AIP (Advance In Person); and blue - absentee ballot, ABM (Advance By Mail).

is taking over in counties that have previously consolidated polling locations. Those counties in Georgia are: Bibb, Charlton, Evans, Greene, Lowndes, Morgan, Muscogee, Telfair, Tift and Webster. Those seven locations to be closed / consolidated and the number of **active**

voters in each precinct are as follows:

- Carnegie - 325
- Cuthbert Middle School - 321
- Coleman - 206
- Springvale - 237
- Benevolence - 354
- Fountain Bridge - 72
- 4th District - 103

The recommendation:

- Carnegie, Coleman, Cuthbert Middle School, Springvale and part of Benevolence to be consolidated into Cuthbert Courthouse polling location.
- 4th District, Fountain Bridge and part of Benevolence be consolidated into

Shellman.

The locations of Cuthbert and Shellman are well known, large enough, are ADA compliant and have adequate parking and infrastructure facilities to handle all

CONSOLIDATION Page 2



Consultant, Mike Malone, showed that at this precinct, should fire fighters have to respond to a call, the poll would have to be closed down temporarily. This would cause the poll to have to be open later into the evening.



Late afternoon Monday afternoon, Aug 13, motorists in Cuthbert on Hwy 82 east were delayed up to an hour as the result of a car fire. The car (pictured) was a 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and was a total loss, which is evident in the photo. The car was towed and there were no reported injuries. (Photo/Cindi Moore)

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Faith Baptist Church
50th Homecoming
10 a.m. Sun., Sept.
23, 166 S Webster St.,
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Rev. Jeff Giddens &
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Lots of singing; stay
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Curry Funeral Home
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Boudleaux Bryant Festival
October 13
Shellman



This photo shows the open electrical box at the voting precinct, Cuthbert Middle School. Also, the open plumbing apparatus of the water fountain and ceiling tiles that are not in place are also visible. The facility has not been utilized as a middle school for a number of years.

CONSOLIDATION
Continued from Page 1

necessary equipment and voting functions. The distances between each of the seven poll sites and the new consolidated location were also given:

- To Cuthbert**
Carnegie - 9 miles
Coleman - 10.3 miles
Cuthbert Middle School - eight-tenths of a mile (.8)
Springvale - 8.3 miles
Benevolence - 9.1 mile

- To Shellman**
4th District - 7.9 miles
Fountain Bridge - 6.5 miles
Benevolence to Shellman - 15.3 miles

Malone stated that with consolidation, Election Management would be greatly enhanced with improved reaction time to special voter situations (such as voter confusion, out of precinct provisional ballots, absentee ballot issues); ADA compliance would not be an

issue; delivery of voting equipment to the various polling locations would be minimized as it would eliminate the damage to voting equipment that is now taking place due to transportation to and from the sites on election days; and election results would be faster for candidates and the media.

Malone was hired by the County this past spring when the former Election Superintendent resigned abruptly at the end of March. Malone's name was supplied by other Election Superintendents who happened to be in training at the Secretary of State's (SOS) office, the day the call came for Randolph County asking for names of who they might contact. Malone's name was supplied along with two others via SOS staff.

At that time, Randolph BER was in dire need of an Election Superintendent to ensure the upcoming election ran

properly. The May 22, 2018 election was rapidly approaching with deadlines for military ballots to be mailed along with other work to ensure all criteria for the election were met and the election conducted. The former Election Superintendent of Greene County, Malone was hired to fill in as superintendent until a permanent replacement could be hired. As the relationship with Malone progressed, he was asked to make recommendations and became a consultant to the County and BER.

BELINDA DEAL/The Southern Tribune contributed to this article.

Editor's note: After the news of the proposed poll consolidation broke last week, some media outlets have reported that there is no public transportation. Pataula Transit Authority is located in Randolph County, in Springvale, and provides public transportation.



State Representative Gerald Greene (R-district 151) is pictured (left) talking about Veterans issues with U.S. Senator (R-GA) Johnny Isakson at a recent meeting.

Senators Isakson, Perdue ask Army for Plan to address Dangerous Lead Levels

Seek answers following recent report regarding on-base housing, including at Georgia's Fort Benning

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and David Perdue (R-GA) today sent a letter along with Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Mark Warner (D-VA) to the secretary of the U.S. Army raising concerns over a recent report about lead poisonings and dangerous lead levels in housing on U.S. Army installations, including Fort Benning, Georgia, which are endangering military families.

"We write to you today concerned about recent reports of lead poisoning at a number of Army installations. The health and safety of our service members and their families are of the utmost importance," the

senators wrote.

While the sale of lead-based paint is banned in the United States, many older homes still have the old paint on walls, which can become dangerous to children as it peels and chips. Young children are most susceptible to lead poisoning and face long-term developmental delays.

The report highlights cases of lead poisoning at on-base housing at Fort Benning, Georgia, Fort Knox, Kentucky, Fort Polk, Louisiana, Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Hood, Texas, and a 2015 Department of Defense Inspector General report that found lead paint hazards at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In the letter, the senators ask Army Secretary

Mark Esper to provide a detailed briefing about what the Army is doing to keep military families safe and what they need from Congress to address this problem.

"We ask that you provide our offices with a detailed briefing as soon as possible outlining the immediate and long-term mitigation strategy to keep military families safe, provide medical treatment for those potentially or previously affected, make long-lasting repairs, and finally, provide legislative proposals or guidance on legislation needed to hold maintenance contractors accountable," the senators concluded.

The Southern Sounding Board - Commentary -

Congressman Sanford Bishop Statement in strong opposition to Voter Suppression efforts in Randolph County

ALBANY, GA (Mon., Aug. 20, 2018) - Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02) released the following statement regarding the proposal by the election board of Randolph County, Georgia to close seven of the nine polling stations in Randolph County. Congressman Bishop represents Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, which includes Randolph County, as well as a significant portion of Middle and Southwest Georgia.

"I am outraged by the proposal to close seven of the nine polling stations in Randolph County and will do everything in my power to stop this act of voter suppression. The right to vote is fundamental to our system of government. This action would certainly work to disenfranchise voters in Randolph County, particularly Afri-



can American voters. It is a disgrace to our democratic process, and it is unacceptable. I will be reaching out today to the U.S. Department of Justice and the Georgia Secretary of State to express my strong opposition to these proposed voting station closures.

Rep. Greene opposes Local Proposal to close Polling Sites

ATLANTA (Mon., Aug. 20, 2018) - State Representative Gerald Greene (R-Cuthbert) today announced his opposition to a proposal by the Randolph County Board of Elections and Registration to close polling sites in Randolph County.

"As I stated at the meeting last Thursday, I vehemently oppose this proposal to close seven polling sites, and I call on the Board of Elections to withdraw this proposal," said Rep. Greene. "During my time in office, I have sought to vigorously protect every citizen's right to vote. Closing seven of the nine polling locations in Randolph County would disenfranchise many of my constituents and restrict them from exercising their constitutional right to vote. I hope our county elections officials will do the right thing and keep these polling sites



open for the November elections." Randolph County officials have proposed to close seven out of nine polling places for the November election that were open during this year's primary and runoff contests. The board of elections is set to vote on the proposal on August, 24, 2018.

Voter Suppression Efforts continue in Randolph County

The Voter Suppression efforts continue in Randolph County. The Democratic Party is inviting all citizens to attend an upcoming event. On Friday, August 24th at 8:00 am, the Board of Elections and Registration will meet to discuss a proposal to consolidate precincts. If approved this would close 7 voting precincts in the county. The meeting will take place at the Government Center, located at 93 Front Street. We are encouraging you to get on the agenda of the Board of Elections and Registration to speak to the two members of the board and express your concerns and displeasure.

The Black Voters Matter rally will be held on Wednesday, August 22, at 5:30pm, at the Stone House Restaurant. We are asking all citizens to come out and show your support.

Randolph County Democratic Committee

Bobby Jenkins, Chair

- PAID POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT -

The Southern Tribune

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