

# HOME & FARM

## Let us help you get started with your will

Most of us do not like to think about what happens to our possessions after we are gone. A will is a legal document that allows you to give specific instructions for how you want your possessions distributed after your death. National surveys have found that most adults do not have a will. If you die without a will and without designated beneficiaries, your assets might be distributed according to state laws rather than according to your wishes.

Wills are important regardless of how much or how little money you may have. Make an inventory of your property, bank accounts, heirlooms, jewelry, photographs, and



**All the Comforts of Home**  
**Ensley Howell**  
489-3910

other items of sentimental or monetary value. Think about how you want your assets to be distributed among your spouse, children, grandchildren, other family members, friends, and charities. Remember to also consider social media and business websites, as well as electronic mail accounts. Your will or related documents should include instructions for how these online accounts will be con-

tinued or deleted as well as where to find logins and passwords.

A quick online search will produce numerous resources to help you draft a will. However, there may be specific state laws and/or other important considerations that need to be taken into account. Details that you might not think about could cause unnecessary stress and costs for your family. Consult with your local or estate planning attorney for help and questions to be sure that your will is legally valid, reflects your wishes, and considers scenarios you might not have thought about. If you already have a will, review it periodically to ensure that properties,

bank accounts, and beneficiaries are up to date.

The Mississippi State University Extension Web site at extension.msstate.edu has several publications to help you get started in estate and financial planning:

Declaring Your Wishes Through an Advance Health-Care Directive - A Guide for Mississippi Families (Publication Number: P2220)

Family Insurance Planning (Publication Number: IS1410)

Planning Your Estate Part 1: Where to Begin (Publication Number: P1742)

Planning Your Estate Part 2: Where There's a Will There's a Way (Publication Number: P1739)



Tucker enjoys laying close to me whether I'm taking tea in the yard or checking on the chickens.

## My little prince still brightens my day

This past Monday my little brown prince turned seven years old. Tucker came into my life during Thanksgiving seven years ago come November. He was a gift from my little brother. Now that he is getting older and more settled, he can be outside by himself.

He doesn't stay in the house as much as he once did because he has found out that he enjoys laying outside in the summer night air.

I'm glad because he has young ears and can chase any possums and raccoons away when he hears them around the chicken house.

Tucker is a special little dog. Right away Jon and I called him the little brown tornado because he tore around the yard like a little Tasmanian devil making us both laugh at his antics.

Through these seven years I have cried over him, prayed over him and worried about him more than I did my Trixie who I had more than 12 years.

I have taken more pictures of that little runt than I have any other dog. We often have selfies taken together. He hovers near me when he senses I'm sad or when I am home at unusual times of the day.

I've nursed him through broken bones, cried over him disappearing for several weeks at a time, and fussed at him for being a nuisance at times, but I still fiercely love him because he showed me right from the start of our walk together how much he loved me.

You see, the spring after I got him in November, he disappeared for a couple of nights. And then on a rainy Friday morning his piercing brown eyes plaintively looked up at me from beside the driveway.

He was soaking wet and shivering, and I could tell he was grateful to see me.

Being the gentlemanly little dog he is, he stood up, or tried to. His back legs were injured, so he sat down again right away. I scooped him up in my arms and carried him to the house.

"I've missed you so much," I crooned over him as I cradled him carefully, while in the same moment my heart was crying because I knew that he wouldn't be running again for a long time.

I pondered the things that this little dog had just endured to get back to me, never really knowing what hit him or at what time he was injured. He had to hear me calling him, so he knew that I was out in the dark somewhere looking for him.

He slowly, painfully started his trek home, putting his front two feet down and dragging his back end.

He is such a little dog and



**Chirps From Cardinal Lady**  
**Regina Butler**  
489-3511

yet in the midst of excruciating pain, he kept at his task, making his way to me. And when I did see him and scoop him up in my arms, he didn't fuss or whine at me because I wasn't there when he expected me to. He simply loved me with little dog kisses. It took him more than 18 months to get over his injuries, but he learned how to walk on his front legs and keep his back legs swung off of the ground, I was amazed at his circus-like antics.

He disappeared for several days in the spring of 2016. I put out on facebook about missing him. I put his picture in the paper, and that got a response. I was reunited with him that morning. He was saved from being apart from me forever.

One summer night he got loose with his chain on. I called Jon and asked him to pray. I drove down the street and peered through the twilight at folks yards, hoping to see him scurrying across the green grass. No sign of the little brown tornado. I finally went back home with a heavy heart. But as I stepped out of the car, I heard him barking across the road.

So I drove up to my neighbors house and parked and headed off in the dark toward that urgent plea he was giving out. I found him wrapped around a tree. I was so grateful that he had been caught at the edge of someone's yard rather than off in the woods. Saved from death again.

He got off the chain and disappeared again in the spring of last year. Finally we located him up the road visiting a "lady friend." My kind neighbors said they would bring him back to me if they ever caught him at their house again. Fortunately he hasn't wandered that far again.

Today he can dance on his hind legs when he wants a bite of chicken. When the cold weather comes, he crawls in the bed with me and sleeps at my feet.

Jon calls him the weed eater when he goes to sleep because he snores and it sounds like a weed eater. But no matter where I am on the hill he is right with me whether I am drinking a cup of tea or checking on the chickens and cats.

He is also my car companion if it is raining or when it is cold weather, so if you hear a growl and a bark, from my blue Toyota named Dory, it's just little Tuck defending his territory and I'm so glad he is still with me.



Goldenrod



Woodland Sunflower

## It's time to enjoy fall's yellow flowers

This article is the third installment describing wildflowers I have observed while driving along Friendship Road in northern Pontotoc County. Today, I will discuss species that emerge during the dog days of summer.

Wildflowers can be scarce during this hot and dry time of summer. This period can be tough on honeybees and other pollinators that rely on nectar and pollen.

It also makes my morning drive to the Extension office very boring. Fortunately, as we inch toward fall the beautiful flowers from goldenrod and woodland sunflower emerge.

The sources used in this article include information



**Farm & Garden Notes**  
**James Shannon**  
489-3910

from Dr. Gary Bachman, Dr. Victor Maddox, and from the website [www.illinoiswildflowers.info](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info).

### Goldenrod

Goldenrod is a native perennial wildflower that readily grows along roadsides and in abandoned fields. It begins blooming in August before the cool temperatures of fall finally arrive. As the name suggests, the golden blooms provide great late season

color as the oppressive summer heat takes its toll on most other flowering plants.

There are several species of goldenrod that grow across most of the United States. The most common in Mississippi is European goldenrod. European goldenrod grows to around four feet in height and has flowers that grow on arching branches near the top of the plant.

### Woodland Sunflower

Woodland sunflower is a native perennial that is a member of the aster family. They can range from two feet to near seven feet in height. Woodland sunflowers grow in clumps in relatively open areas along

roadsides, abandoned fields, and in forests.

Woodland sunflowers have opposite lance shaped leaves. Each set of leaves forms a 90 degree angle with the leaves located below. The flowers range from near one inch to three inches in width. They have eight to fifteen yellow flower petals with a raised golden center. The seeds produced by woodland sunflower are a food source for a variety of wildlife including song-birds, mourning dove, bobwhite quail, and squirrels.

As summer drags on, I hope you enjoy the beautiful displays and appreciate the benefits that goldenrod and woodland sunflower provide.

## 4-H NEWS

### My 4-H memories

When I think back to my memories of Pontotoc County 4-H two memories stand out. My first memory is a "Bicycle Workshop". Mr. Willie Gilliam was in charge. There was an obstacle course set up in the Pontotoc Junior High Parking lot. I was probably about ten years old and was riding my favorite banana seat bike. We learned the parts of a bike and the hand signals for right turn, left turn, and stop. After practicing the signals, Mr. Gilliam directed us to the obstacle course. We were to use the signals throughout the course. I remember that he was just as excited as I was when I completed the course. I remember getting a 4-H certificate for taking the course and feeling so accomplished for finishing the course. I felt like I could ride my bike safely everywhere!



Ally Hall made eggs.

My next memory is a "Manners and Etiquette" class. This class was at the Community House. I went with my two older sisters, Joy and Jill. Mrs. Louise Daniels was in charge of the class. When we entered, we were greeted by 4-H members and directed to sit at tables of four. Mrs. Daniels talked about proper introductions, manners, and table etiquette. We were then served food by the older 4-H members. Everyone



Claire Randle made Monkey Bread.

there learned to use their napkin and the correct fork and spoon. At the end of the class Mrs. Daniels gave us a 4-H certificate for completing the class. I remember thinking I was just as "big" as my older sisters for finishing the class!

Learning and feeling proud of accomplishments is what 4-H is all about! If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of just call the Pontotoc



Autumn Brooke Padgett made Sheet Pan Pancakes.

County Extension office at 662-489-3910. Ask for Jane Chamblee, your 4-H agent. You are sure to find something that is a perfect fit for you! And yes, we still offer a bicycle project, cooking and manners workshops, and more!

Here are a few 4-H members who are trying new recipes with "Kids Cooking" videos available on the Pontotoc County 4-H Club Facebook page.