

OBITUARIES

Billy Joe Cummings



CALHOUN — Billy Joe Cummings, 91, of Calhoun, hit the jackpot on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, and got to go on home to be with Jesus. When the roll was called up yonder at 2:45 p.m., Billy’s name was called and he was more than ready to go! Billy Joe Cummings was born Oct. 14, 1933, in McLean County to the late Orval and Mary Elizabeth English Cummings and was married to the former Linda Simon.

Billy retired as a mechanic and grounds keeper from Texas Gas in Owensboro and was a member of Calhoun Baptist Church. He spent the last six years of his life at Redbanks Nursing Home in Henderson. Here he found the most caring and dedicated people to care for him that a person could hope for. Billy’s family is very thankful for each of them. They also recommend this facility to anyone needing help with a loved one.

Billy had many hobbies. In his younger days, he enjoyed metal detecting with his good friend, Mike Reeves. Billy was a collector of old coins, knives, old pocket watches, Indian artifacts, especially arrowheads, and

old marbles.

Billy’s favorite thing to do in life was to tease and aggravate his wife, Linda, to pieces! Family and friends can remember him often saying, “Oh, how I miss her.” He also loved going to his daughter and son’s basketball games and loved coaching his daughter, Kathy, in softball. Billy also enjoyed traveling with his son, Joe, to watch his softball games and loved hunting with his son, brother, Bobby, and his nephew, Kelly, as well as playing cards with them. Billy enjoyed going to flea markets with his brother, Maurice, and loved talking to his grandson, Logan, especially about the Bible and Jesus. Billy was a lifelong Kentucky Wildcat and was a true Blue Blood Boy! He will be greatly

missed.

In addition to his parents, Billy was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Linda Cummings, who died March 8, 2000, and brothers, Bobby Cummings and Maurice “Bunk” Cummings.

Billy is survived by his son, Joe Cummings of Calhoun; daughter, Kathy Cummings of Owensboro; and grandson, Logan Cummings of Owensboro.

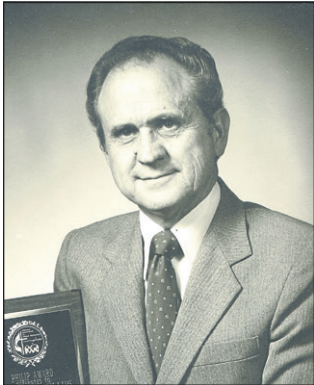
The funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025, at Muster Funeral Homes Calhoun Chapel. Burial will be in Calhoun Cemetery, McLean County. Friends may visit with Billy’s family from 10:30 a.m. until the time of the service on Saturday at the funeral home.

The Billy Joe Cummings family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of donations to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Billy’s service will be streamed live on musterfuneralhomes.com at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Share your memories and photos of Billy at musterfuneralhomes.com.

Rev. George W. Phillips



CENTRAL CITY — Rev. George W. Phillips, 92, of Central City, passed away Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, at the Heartford House in Owensboro. George Wallace Phillips was born March 31, 1932, in D’Lo, Mississippi to the late James Grady and Myrtle Marie Smith Phillips and was married to the former Mary Jo Brinson on August 31, 1951.

George was a United Methodist minister for over 65 years, serving multiple churches across Kentucky. Additionally, he served as an evangelist supported by the George Phillips Evangelistic Association. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Central City. He loved deer hunting, leading tours to the Holy Land and sharing the word of God.

In addition to his parents, George was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Mary Jo Phillips, who died March

6, 2009; brother, Henry Phillips; and three sisters, Johnnie Merle, Clara Watkins and Cora Hanson.

George is survived by his daughter, Rebekah Phillips of Viroqua, Wisconsin; three sons, Grady Phillips (JoAnn) of Fairhope, Alabama, Marc Phillips (Nicola) of Haskell, Oklahoma and Bill Phillips of Evergreen, Colorado; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and sister, Flora McDonald (Mitchell) of Preston, Mississippi.

A funeral service will be

held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025, at Bethany Methodist Church, 3324 Cato Road in Braxton, Mississippi. Burial will be in Bethany Methodist Cemetery, Braxton. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at First United Methodist Church in Central City and from noon until the time of the service on Saturday at the church in Mississippi.

Muster Funeral Homes Calhoun Chapel is handling the arrangements with assistance from Colonial Chapel of Mendenhall, Mississippi.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to support the Mary Jo Phillips Daycare Center in Asuncion, Paraguay. <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-513-mary-jo-phillips-methodist-daycare-center-of-asuncion-paraguay.aspx>

Please share your memories and photos of George at musterfuneralhomes.com.

Faron Keith Austin



Faron Keith Austin, 61, of Calhoun, passed away on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital. He was born on June 9, 1963, to the late Anna Pearl Austin in McLean County where he grew up and later graduated from high school.

An adventurous outdoorsman, Keith had a deep love for nature and spent much of his time hunting, fishing and exploring new places. He was a sports enthusiast, cheering for the St. Louis Cardinals, University of Kentucky Wildcats

and the San Francisco 49ers. Keith was an active member of the Livermore Lions Club and took great pride in being an organ donor.

Above all, Keith was a

devoted family man. He cherished his children, loved his family deeply and had a special place in his heart for his beloved four-legged companions. His kindness, adventurous spirit and unwavering love for those around him will be missed.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 30 years, Lisa Austin; children, Martina and Collin Austin; cousin, Kathy (Jim) Crowe; as well as several other loving family and friends.

Care entrusted to Cardinal Cremation Society.

ble populations by threatening them with jail time or arrest for not following commands. I want all of our county seniors to be aware that these things are happening, even in our community,” Martin said.

Anyone interested in having their state and federal taxes filed during the free tax preparation time should bring their photo ID, Social Security cards for any and all household members, an Identity Protection Pin if available, all income documentation including W2s, 1099s, Social Security income information and any cash income, documentation needed for deductions such as property tax, mortgage interest, medical expens-

es and charitable contributions, documentation for tax credits including school tuition payments, receipts accounting for energy efficient improvements on the home and daycare receipts or statements and a health insurance statement.

More information about the VITA tax preparation program, which is presented for free by the Green River Asset Building Coalition (GRABC), can be found on grabc.org or by calling 270-685-1603.

MUSEUM NEWS

The last week’s Museum News did not run in full, so this is the entire version of what should have appeared last week.

This week I talk about “jitney suppers,” which were a big deal several decades ago. As far as the word “jitney” goes, two years ago I wrote that there was a 1920s ad for an Owensboro business that sold April Fool’s cards, and the ad said, “Only a jitney.” This meant that the cards cost just five cents each — the word jitney meaning “a nickel” or “a 5-cent piece.” From this usage also comes the term jitney bus, which originally had a five-cent fare.

So I got to wondering if a jitney supper/ dinner could be had for just five cents. What a great deal! But how long would five cents buy you a meal? As it turns out, a jitney supper was a fundraising meal where food was sold by the scoop, at a nickel each, so the amount you paid depended on how high you piled your plate.

Following are mentions of different jitney suppers here in McLean County.

1931 — “The Semiway P.T.A. will hold a ‘jitney’ supper Sept. 19.”

1934 — “Boston school will have a jitney supper Saturday night, Nov. 10. Music will be furnished by a string band.”

Sept. 25, 1935 — In Sacramento news, “A jitney supper given by the P.T.A. in the school auditorium recently, proved quite a success. Music, songs and contests were enjoyed. A honeymooners contest was won by James W. Morehead and Jerry Batsel. A splendid crowd was in attendance. A good menu was provided and the supply of food was entirely sold out. The committee in charge of the supper included: Mrs. Alvey Dossett, chairman, Mrs. T. Dossett and Mrs. Ashton Whyane.”

Oct. 1935 — The Glenville P.T.A. appears to have sponsored jitney suppers on two consecutive Friday evenings, Oct. 4 and Oct. 11, for the benefit of the school. The committees on arrangements, for one or both suppers included Mesdames Louella Peak, Leona Barnett, Della Porter, Necie Rightmyer, Clemmie Lynn, Martelia Baird and Nannie Lou Leet.

March 3, 1936 — In Calhoun news, “The Woman’s Missionary society of the Methodist church will hold a bake and rummage sale in the J.C. Epley building on Main Street all day Sat., March 7. In the evening a jitney supper will be served. These weekly sales are being sponsored by the first quarter committee of the society. The committee in charge includes Mrs. Ollie Thomas, chairman, Mrs. Nan Epley, Mrs. Edna Wall and Mrs. Charlotte Moore.”

Apr. 2, 1936 — In Calhoun news, “The Volunteer club of the Christian church will hold a combined rummage and food sale Sat., April 11, and will conclude with a jitney supper, which will be served at the Hayden building. Mrs. J.W. Muster is in charge of the sale and supper, and will be assisted by a group of women members.”

Apr. 19, 1936 — “Women of the (Calhoun) Methodist church held a food sale and jitney supper Saturday, Apr. 18.” Earlier in the month Miss Nell Beeler was named as a delegate to attend a conference at Louisville, and the jitney supper was held to secure funds to finance the trip.

Dec. 1, 1936 — “The Calhoun P.T.A. will entertain with a jitney supper at the school building at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.” The monthly P.T.A. meeting was to follow at 7:15 p.m.

Sept. 22, 1938 — “The Sacramento P.T.A. will entertain in the high school gymnasium on Sat., Sept. 24, with a party and jitney supper. The public is invited and parents especially are urged to attend. This will be a welcome to new schools that have joined this year. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of all contests.”

Oct. 26, 1938 — “The Calhoun Homemakers club met at the home of Mrs. John Ballantine Thursday afternoon. The club will give a jitney supper at the Epley building Oct. 28, to which the public is invited.”

Oct. 27, 1938 — “The Woman’s Missionary society of the Sacramento Baptist church, will sponsor a jitney supper Saturday afternoon and evening, Oct. 29. The public is cordially invited to attend. Proceeds will be used to help finance repairs on the church.”

The Pack Homemakers’ Club combined a tacky party and a jitney supper at the school building on Saturday, Dec. 3, 1938, which was well attended.

Dec. 22, 1938 — “The Rumsey Homemakers club met at the home of Mrs. Charles G. Rabold Monday. Mrs. Adolph Dossett, president, presided. A delegate will be sent to Farm and Home Week, Lexington, Jan. 23 to 28. The club will sponsor a jitney supper to be given at the Rumsey school building Jan. 14, to raise funds for this purpose.”

Sept. 14, 1939 — “Glenville P.T.A. met Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. F.H. Collings, president, presiding. Officers of the year were elected. A jitney supper will be sponsored by the P.T.A. Saturday night, Sept. 23. Music will be furnished by the Harmless Harmonizers. The public is cordially invited.”

Oct. 10, 1939 — In Calhoun news, “The Volunteer club of the Christian church elected officers for the year. The club will sponsor a ‘Jitney supper,’ to be given Friday night at Dukes store on Main street. The proceeds will be used for the benefit of the church.”

Nov. 3, 1939 — “Calhoun Homemakers club met at the home of Mrs. Hubert White. Mrs. T.W. Spain, chairman, presided. Plans were made to hold a jitney supper tonight. Mrs. Donahoo and Mrs. John H. Ballantine were appointed to make arrangements for the supper.”

Nov. 25, 1939 — In Calhoun news, “The Cemetery association entertained with a jitney supper Friday evening. Mrs. Edna Alexander had charge of the arrangements. The proceeds will be used in the upkeep of the local cemetery.”

Oct. 24, 1940 — “The Calhoun Homemakers club made plans for a jitney supper to be given Friday evening, Nov. 1, at an all-day meeting at the home of Mrs. J.H. Ballantine recently.”

Oct. 30, 1941 — “The Rumsey P.T.A. will sponsor a jitney supper and Hallowe’en party at the school Friday evening, Oct. 31. Prizes will be awarded for the prettiest and ugliest costumes, and for the most appropriately dressed person for the occasion. The crowning of the autumn queen will be a feature of the program. Mrs. William McGehee and Mrs. Walter Revlett will have charge of the jitney supper. Games and contests will be directed by Mrs. Omer Cobb, assisted by Miss Ruby Sandefur, and other entertainment will be provided, including a cake walk and a fish pond.”

Jan. 27, 1942 — At the home of Mrs. E.E. Atherton, Thursday, the “Oak Grove Homemakers club planned a jitney supper to be held at the courthouse Saturday, Feb. 14, with music and folk dancing during the evening.”

Feb. 20, 1944 — “The Livermore P.T.A. will sponsor a jitney supper at the school building Tuesday, Feb. 22. Serving will begin at 5:30 p.m. Open house will be observed. The public, as well as members, are invited.”

Mar. 11, 1951 — “The Livermore P-TA will sponsor a jitney supper in the high school auditorium Friday evening, March 16. Serving will begin at 6 p.m. All interested are invited to attend. Mrs. L.M. Nalley is general chairman of the committee on arrangements.”

It looks like some places still have “jitney suppers,” but, yes, the price has gone up. A VFW Post in Ohio has these suppers every so often. One such meal was held on Jan. 4, 2025, where you would get a dinner of “pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, salad and a dessert for just \$10.” The proceeds went towards helping their veterans and the post. So, obviously, no longer sold by the scoop, but still a great fundraising and social event!

The museum and the Treasure House Thrift Shop are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, unless the roads are dangerous. The museum is at 540 Main Street, Calhoun, and the Treasure House is at 530 Main. Our museum number is 270-499-5033. My email address is secretary@mcleancountykymuseum.org. I wish everyone a great week ahead!

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ISLAND

FROM **PAGE A2**

January meeting of the Island 4-H Club was called to order by the president, Stan Tucker. Butch Trimble led the pledge to the American Flag and Kim Carter led the pledge to the 4-H Flag. 64 members answered roll call. Sherrie Willoughby, secretary, then read the minutes of the last meeting. They were approved as read. The president then asked for old and new business. The club elected their 4-H King and Queen for 4-H Jamboree.

They are Stan Tucker and Teddy Kaye Davis. Kim Ford and Angie Sharp had a demonstration on ‘Rolling Yarn.’ Ronnie Fulkerson, vice president, was in charge of the program.”

I wish everyone a blessed week ahead!

“I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.” 1 Timothy 2:8.

To share any news, call or text me at 850-543-6772 or email me at IslandKYNews@gmail.com.

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