

2 VIE FOR GASTONIA SCHOOL BOARD SEAT

Mike Stuart will challenge incumbent Lee Dedmon for a Gastonia Township seat on the Gaston County Board of Education. Voters elected Dedmon to his first term on the school board in 2014. He retired in 2013 as principal of the Highland School of Technology in Gastonia. Stuart is a care coordinator for the intellectual disability population at Partners Behavioral Health Management in Gastonia. Five total seats on the school board are up for election. Each of the nonpartisan elected positions carries a four-year term. School board members are elected by a countywide vote, but must live in the district they represent. The Gazette asked each candidate the same four questions:



If you haven't voted yet, vote for my Paw-Paw November 6. Thank-you

How will you help the school board to improve its relationship with county commissioners?

STUART: Both our school board members and county commissioners need to participate in more joint projects when applicable. Invite county commissioners to school board meetings to make presentations when possible. To allow our school board to see where our county funding goes but in turn be able to share with our commissioners throughout the year the Gaston County Schools needs and not just at budget time.

DEDMON: The school board and the county commissioners currently have a good working relationship, based on mutual respect, collegiality, and a joint commitment to student success. Both groups must continue to make communicating with each other, our legislators, and our citizens a top priority so that there is no disconnect between our local and state governments. When commissioners, educators and school officials unite around a shared concern about the best interest of children and a common goal to achieve what is best for our community in terms of the state's fiscal responsibility, we can create a powerful force for change.

How do you think schools can be made safer, and what is your role to accomplish this?

STUART: I feel that we need more eyes (by staff) in our hallways to prevent the congregating of students between classes that may inadvertently lead to heated issues. Shooting drills may need to be considered to prevent the uncontrollable frustration that parents have

as in Charlotte on Oct. 29, 2018. Evacuate in a fast and safe way to prevent panic. As a school board member, monitor their progress.

DEDMON: The deadly school shooting so close to home this week makes this a question for which everyone wants to find the answer, quickly and permanently. Although our school board members are elected to serve as stewards of our schools and thus play a critical role in providing safe environments for students and staff, the reality is that making our schools safe for all of our children truly requires a team effort. The only way that we can create a safe school environment is through a comprehensive, coordinated effort including schoolwide, districtwide, and communitywide strategies supplemented with legislation, resources, and support at the state and federal legislation level. As a board, we must continue to adopt overall policies on school safety like comprehensive safety plans; to be proactive in addressing specific behaviors that threaten school safety like bullying, gang violence, and hate-motivated behavior; utilize our school resources like school resource officers, metal detectors and wands, counselors, student support services, mental health services, drug and alcohol programs, provide staff development on these and other safety issues, and most importantly, work with parents and community/church leaders to help our children realize that violence is never the answer to any problem: if you see or hear something, say something.

continued on page 2

continued from page one

How do you plan to help the school system to retain and attract teachers?

STUART: As we all know the value of our teachers is priceless. North Carolina has tried to bring salaries in line to be more competitive but when has Gaston County Schools completed a market analysis to see where our county ranks? If we expect Gaston County Schools to be at the top, then Gaston County Schools needs to be paying at the top. Losing teachers to other counties must stop. Notice I said other counties not other states.

DEDMON: Attracting and retaining excellent educators is one of the most important drivers of a well-functioning education system—a system that must prepare diverse students with complex needs to participate in today’s knowledge-driven economy. As a county, it is essential that we constantly strive to make teacher pay competitive with surrounding areas so that our teachers are able to support a middle-class lifestyle. As a school system, we must continue to invest in our high-quality induction program to assure that it sustains its successful history in providing our novice teachers the following opportunities: mentoring, coaching, and feedback from experienced teachers in the same subject or grade; ability to observe expert teachers and attend orientation sessions, retreats, and seminars; plus support in reducing their workloads by providing extra classroom assistance.

Voters approved \$250 million to build more schools and make renovations to existing schools. How do you propose this money is prioritized for spending and, in addition to the new Belmont Middle School, where and when should the additional schools be built?

STUART: First, I would like to see some parents added to a focus group led by board members to have input from the parent population and hold board members to more transparency. This can be done with the submission of applications and board members can review for final selection. Thorough study of the safety of each school to check for repairs and list of our oldest schools forward and a geographic region the county where schools have been built.

DEDMON: As our school buildings age, we face the growing challenge of maintaining school facilities at a level that enables our teachers to meet the needs of 21st-century learners. We have conducted a facilities

needs assessment in the past, and we need to update, manage and use data from this study to prioritize maintenance and building of schools. In addition, we must revisit our county’s population growth and make sure that funding is as equitable as possible among all schools in our county. As we all know, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” so detailing and reviewing “best practice” strategies for maintaining our facilities and grounds will contribute to our goal of being good stewards of this funding.

LEE DEDMON WON HIS GASTONIA TOWNSHIP SEAT AGAINST MIKE STUART

*Hello Everyone,
We did it!! I say we, because without all of you, we would not have had a winning team! I am sending each of you and all of the citizens of Gaston County my heartfelt thanks for your support. With your trust, I will work tirelessly on your behalf to address challenges, secure meaningful improvements, and continue to support significant initiatives that are already in place in our school system. Not only am I thankful for your support, but also for all of the candidates who have offered to serve in their respected elected positions. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve again and look forward to continuing to make Gaston County Schools “Simply the Best”!* -Lee



Lee was an “All American” basketball star for the Tarheels about fifty years ago. He then went on to play professional. He returned to North Carolina where he taught and served as principal and now his second term on the school board.



When I received this story I was captivated as I read it, by the time I got to the end I was in tears. It was written by Lurline's son "Darrell Hicks". As he sat with nothing on his mind but his mother, he began to write. You can see his words flowed from his heart to his hands as he was writing. What a wonderful tribute to his mother. I want to Thank him for sharing her life and his memories in such loving way... -Hazel Inglis

**"For My Mother Virgia Lurline Dedmon (Hicks)"
by Darrell Hicks**

Lurline was born in Spanish Fort, MS January 3rd, 1927 and passed away on 27th of May 1971. Her parents were Richard Allen Dedmon, Sr. and Maudie L. Dedmon and they had nine children, Lurline being the oldest. Lurline had six brothers and two sisters all of which have passed away including herself. When she was growing up, she worked helping her mother raise her brothers and sisters plus daily chores and working in the cotton fields. Most of her early life was spent growing up in Yazoo County. The family lived in several small towns and communities in Yazoo County during her teen years. She attended Redwood High School in Redwood, MS and graduated in 1945. Her class was relatively small with only ten students.

Later that year she married William Darrell Hicks on October 7th, 1945 in Vicksburg, MS. Darrell was the oldest son of a family of nine children. With such a large family to feed he had to quit school in the 8th grade and help work on the family farm. Later years he was drafted into the army and was deployed to Europe. He was discharged at Camp Shelby on April 29th, 1946. Lurline and Darrell had three children, William Darrell Hicks, Jr. Emma Jane Hicks and Peggy Sue Hicks. Lurline and the family lived in several cities to include Vicksburg, Yazoo City, Canton, Natchez and Monroe, La. While living in Vicksburg she decided to become a waitress. She was a waitress for over 22 years working at what was then Johnnie's Restaurant and Drive Inn and Tuminello's Restaurant both in Vicksburg. Her two sisters Grace and Jerrie worked with her at Johnnie's for a few years. She enjoyed working as a waitress as she was a people person. Everyone that met her stayed a true friend. After she quit working as a waitress, she decided to become a stay-at-home mother and raise her children.

Lurline's father and mother lived near Satartia, MS and earned a living running a small country store and renting boats at Dump Lake. Their house and store were one building and the house part was in the rear with the store up front. On weekends and in the summer, her family would spend a lot of time fishing and enjoy being with the Dedmon Clan. Her brothers would go frog grabbing at night and on occasion take one or two of her children. There was a lot of fun to be shared especially when it came time to clean the frogs. Living in Vicksburg was a unique experience because her children had to either walk to school or ride the city bus. Her family enjoyed the Vicksburg Military Park during the summer months having picnics and exploring the hills and valleys for Civil War relics. The Dedmons enjoyed having big family get-togethers. The mothers and fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters all had a tremendous amount of fun. That is what a family should do.

As I stated earlier, my mother was a waitress for most of her life. Being a waitress is not a glamorous job and neither is the pay. Momma was lucky enough to have a loving personality and looks to match. She worked odd hours as some were eight to ten hours and six to seven days per week. What time she had off she spent raising me and my two sisters. We would help as much as we could trying to keep our house clean and not cluttered with clothes and toys. I was older than my sisters, so I was looked up to keep a watch on them although I am just about two years older than my middle sister. I am ten years older than my younger sister.

Momma taught us to respect our elders no matter who they were or what the color of their skin was. At one time we had an African-American lady keeping a watch on us (notice I didn't say babysitting) and performing some household chores. Her name was Mabel and she was the kindest person we could have had taking care of us while momma worked. Mabel would ask us a question and we would respond with a "yes mam" or "no mam". She said that we didn't have to call her mam and we told her yes we did because our momma said to respect our elders. She would look at us and a smile would come across her face. She knew my momma taught us to be kind to each other and other people. Sometimes I wonder what ever happened to Mabel.



Lurline Dedmon (Hicks)

When she worked at Tuminello's Restaurant there was always some type of party or celebration happening. Momma worked at Tuminello's for over ten years, so she had some "favorite" customers. They always asked for her to be their server. We lived right across the street from the restaurant, so we stayed there a lot of times but keeping out of the way. Although the restaurant served liquor momma made sure that we never got close to the spirits. At certain times customers would have a birthday party or some other celebration and asked my momma if we could sing "happy Birthday" to them. Most of the time she agreed, and we would sing our hearts out. Each time we were invited to perform a song the customer(s) would give us some money. Most of the time it was just a dollar or two but sometimes we would get lucky and receive twenty or even fifty dollars, depending on how much fun the customer was having. Momma worked mostly for tips because in those days the pay was just a few dollars. My sister and I always made sure to share our fortunes with her. I never saw her tired at work even though we knew she was. When she finally did get off work she would walk home and remove her shoes. I or my sister would get a large pan and fill it with warm water and she would soak her feet in it. I now know what that feeling must have been for her.

Momma never took anything for granted. She would always make sure we had clean clothes and something to eat before we went to school. The days she was off we made sure to help ourselves and let her rest. She was even pretty when she slept. I don't remember us having a lot of homework because in those days we were taught our lessons in class. If, by chance, we had homework momma would make sure that we did it all. If we had a problem momma was always there to help. She solved a lot of problems and a lot of them were not school related. I remember one time my third-grade teacher had a birthday and momma wanted to get her a gift. I didn't know at the time what the gift would be so when my teacher opened the present, she held up a slip! I didn't know what it meant to be embarrassed so I just set there and stared at the slip because I had seen momma wear one. The days of wearing slips has since passed for most women.

We moved a lot while growing up. But no matter where we were momma always ensured that the house or apartment was our "home". I can remember one time when we lived in Monroe, Louisiana we lived close to an A&W Root Beer restaurant. Momma always told

me to come straight home and don't stop along the way. Well, I tried to have some pocket change all the time and I decided I would stop and get a root beer float. I can still taste the vanilla ice cream and root beer in the frosty mug. When I got home, momma asked me if I liked my root beer float. I was stunned that she knew what I had done, and I later found out that she had "spies" everywhere. That is the kind of momma we had for a mother. No matter what it took she watched out for us to ensure our well-being and safety.

My Momma loved Christmas. She always got me to help her put up the aluminum tree and put the rotating color wheel spotlight on it. It was a special time. Momma liked for me and my sisters to dress up Christmas Eve night to open the gifts. I would wear my suit and my sisters would wear a pretty dress. Momma would put on her favorite dress and put ruby red lipstick on. She had the fullest lips as you can tell from her picture posted earlier. Her hair had to be just right. I even helped her put in a Lilt Home Permanent. I would put rollers on her head with the little sheets of paper and squeeze the liquid on her hair. I had to be extra careful not to roll her hair to tight, so it would not be frizzy. One of my favorite Christmas gifts is when I got a brand new black, shiny 27-inch Schwinn bicycle. I wanted to ride it outside, but Momma said to wait until morning. She always told me to come home before the chickens went to roost. I didn't find out what that meant for many years. I sold Grit newspapers and I tried to save up enough money to get her a nice present. Most of the time it was earrings; you can't go wrong with earrings. She would smile and give me a hug even if she already had a pair just like the ones I had given her.

Momma passed away to early in life and we miss her just as much now as I did then. One piece of advice

always keep in touch with your momma and daddy and don't be ashamed to give them a hug or kiss on the cheek. I would give anything just to be able to see my momma's beautiful smiling face and hold her close enough to feel her heart beat. Life is precious!



Lurline Dedmon and William Darrell Hicks



Today when we hear of people that passed away, they pass from many different reasons. Actually, to many to even count, some may be from:drugs, cancer, alcoholism, drowning, smoking, a brain aneurysm to name a few. At least the most common reasons are the first that come to mind. Awww, yes,"The most common reasons for us TODAY."

Then out of nowhere comes a new one, new for us anyway. Perhaps not so new in the 1920's, times were different then. The way they lived was different, even though it wasn't that many years ago. I can only wonder, did this happen a lot "Back Then"?

Driver Hits Cow; Dies of Injuries

Havre, Montana. Aug.19,1924

Earl Madison Dedman died Sunday morning at the Sacred Heart hospital from injuries received in a collision with a cow north of the city on the Cottonwood road Saturday evening. A companion, Pat Kelly, is confined to the hospital with severe cuts and bruises about the face.



The deceased with two companions, one who escaped injury, were driving north in a Ford touring car and upon meeting a herd of cattle crossing the road waited until the cattle had passed before resuming their journey. One of the cows turned back and the car struck the animal, wrecking the machine and killing the cow.

Funeral services were held at the Baptist church at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. Miss H. Mary Sendell, general missionary for the Baptist church with headquarters in northern Montana, officiated. Interment was made in Highland cemetery.

Great Falls Tribune (MT), 20 Aug 1924

The above obituary as you have read is an old one for, Earl Madison Dedman. At the time of his death he was married to Artie Elizabeth Maze. He was born: Sept.16,1889 in Sweet Springs,Mo. His parents are David Martin Dedman and Cordelia Walborn. Grandson to Daniel Martin Dedman/Deadman and Lydia Lavina Welborn.

Earl Madison Dedman is my great grandfather. For near 35 years I thought he died from a "farming accident", at least that's what I was told. Now I know how he really died. Reading so few words in this obit sure describes a horrific wreck. Recently, I received this in an email by a stranger. A stranger that knew Earl Madison Dedman was my great grandfather. I don't know this person at all, however I will be forever grateful for what was sent to me. I wish I could say "Thank you" --Hazel Inglis



A BROADWATER TRAGEDY

Townsend, Oct.18, 1909

Sheriff William Deadmond received a telephone call from Toston, distant some 14 miles east of Townsend, on the Northern Pacific Railway, at 9 o'clock last evening informing him that a shooting scrape had just taken place in James Bembrick's Saloon. On arriving at Toston, Sheriff Deadmond found one man fatally shot and two others seriously, if not fatally stabbed.

It appears that an extra gang of "Section Men", composed principally of Italians, is working at this point. For some time they have been divided into two factions. Members from both factions met in the Bembrick's Saloon, and after the passage of a few words a free-for-all fight ensued. In which several shots were fired and knives were freely used.

**The River Press: October 27, 1909
Fort Benton, Montana**

~ IN MEMORY ~

On April 13, 1920 the shadow of death visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.B.Dedmon, and claimed for it's victim the beloved husband John Dedmon. He was born August 6,1868, and was a member of the Christian church and was a true Christian man. He was sick only six days with pneumonia. John was a kind father, a true and devoted husband and he will be sadly missed in the home as well as in the community. He leaves and aged father, three brothers, a wife and five children to mourn his going away. "Weep not, as those who have no hope for God giveth and then taketh away". -- Bertha Wright

**Carthage Courier May 20,1920
Carthage, Tenn.**

DAN DEDMAN SR.



Dan Dedman Sr. passed away suddenly at his home on Oct. 29, 2010. Dan was born in San Francisco, Calif., on April 29, 1958, to Gary Lee and Barbara Ann Dedman. At the age of 4 he moved to Sheridan with his mother, father, brother Dennis and sister Donna. He attended school in Sheridan where he formed the strong bonds of friendship that last to this day. He loved all sports; he was a record-holder for the mile in track and captain of his high school football and basketball teams. He graduated from Sheridan High School in 1976.

Dan had an extremely high work ethic and energy level that started as a young boy. At age 10 he mowed lawns and hired his own employees. He worked on the Burke Family Ranch through high school. The Burkes were a second family to Dan and he became the fifth brother. After high school, Dan served in the Air Force and was stationed in Turkey. He returned to Montana and the mountains he loved and went to work for the Luzenac Mine. Dan then teamed up with his brother, Dennis, to start D & D Auto, which began in a small garage in 1984. They moved to the current location in 1986, expanding the business to include Car Quest Auto Parts, Lick-A-Dee Lube and the Car Wash. Dan's greatest joys were his two children, Dan Jr. and Nicole. He was very proud of all the goals they set for themselves and their ability to fulfill them. He worked beside Dan Jr. for the past 10 years and his son is grateful for all he has learned from his father. Dan raved about Nicole's education, her ability to study abroad, and what a lovely young lady she turned out to be. Dan will be endlessly missed by DJ and Nici.

Dan met the love of his life, Peggy, at the Long Branch Saloon in Ennis, and they were married on Aug. 22, 2009. Their love story changed both of their lives. They were extremely blessed to have found each other. Dan loved hunting, outdoor activities, and riding his Harleys with family and friends. His favorite ride was through the Beartooths and his longest ride was all the way to Daytona Beach, Fla. He was an avid gardener and was meticulous with his lawn, flowers and famous Christmas light collection. He was also known to be a bit of a rebel and "wingman" earning the nicknames Chicken Wing and Detonator. Dan is survived by his wife, Peggy (DiMarzio); children, Dan Jr. and Nicole; his mother, Barbara; grandmother, Thelma Baril; brother, Dennis (Brenda) Dedman; nephew, Dennis Jr. (Heather); nieces, Kathleen (Will Henry), Cloe and Lilly Dedman; his nephew, Brian (Janna); niece, Kristy VerHow; stepdaughter, Sammi (Wade) Hansen; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Dan was preceded in death by his father, Gary L. Dedman; his sister, Donna Rae VerHow; his grandparents, Chet and Bessie Stein and his beloved grandfather, Wilfred Baril.

A Vigil is planned for 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1, at St. Mary's of the Assumption in Laurin. A funeral service celebrating Dan's life will be 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, at the Ennis High School gym. Following graveside services at Ennis Cemetery, a reception will be held in the basement of St. Patrick's Church on Highway 287 in Ennis. Dan will be truly missed by his family, his friends, and his community. —(Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Nov. 1, 2010)

Find A Grave Memorial 74202884

JAMES BLACK SR.



James "Jim" Edward Black Sr. age 87 of Trenton, GA died Wednesday, February 28 at CHI Memorial Hospital Georgia.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Betty Teters Black, sons, Eddie Black, Ron Black, daughter, Diane Sewell, grandchildren, Karri Davis(Chip), Tessa Black, Jeb Black(Christi), Chris Loudermilk, Shelly Grossman(Jeremy), Jamie Holman, Brian Sewell, Alicia Jones(Zach), Ronald Black Jr., great-grandchildren, Melana, Mason, Jaida, Lucy, Jeremiah, Annaleese, Isabella, Ember, brothers, Ralph Black(Valera), Thomas Black(Alice), several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Harold and Helen Agnes Dedmon Black.

Mr. Black was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the US Army and retired in 1977 as a Sergeant Major. He was a member, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, and Bus Driver, as well as new building construction director of East Brow Community Church. His love for God, Country, Community, as well as his church and family were seen in his life wherever he traveled and lived.

Funeral services are Sunday, March 4 at 3 PM ET at Corner Stone Funeral Chapel with Bro. Charles Smith officiating. Family will receive friends from 12 noon until service time with an additional visitation after the service till 5 PM ET. Burial with military honors will be Tuesday, March 6 at 2:30 pm ET at Chattanooga National Cemetery.

**Find A Grave Memorial
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