

Watoto Children's Choir

Friday, March 8
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Community Spotlight

Pelahatchie Baptist Church
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Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
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Issue 3

March 2013

Volume 2

Shannon Moore named 2013 Rankin County School District Teacher of the Year

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

Shannon Moore of Pelahatchie High School has been named the 2013 Rankin County School District (RCSD) Teacher of the Year. The 11-year education veteran has taught Biology, Chemistry and Human Anatomy and Physiology courses at Pelahatchie since arriving at the school in 2006. For three of the past six years, the highest Biology I scores in the District have been Moore's students, with over 82 percent of her students scoring Proficient or Advanced on the MCT2.

"Ms. Moore is committed to excellence in teaching and to seeing her students excel. Her ability to inspire her students to do their best and to be excited about what they are learning in her classroom is remarkable," said RCSD Superintendent Dr. Lynn

Weathersby.

"Pelahatchie High School is the best kept secret in Rankin County," said Moore. "I love being here. We have a great staff and wonderful administrators."

As a result of her students' success, she is in high demand as a science coach and teacher mentor. She is a member of the Pelahatchie High School Leadership Team, a consultant with JBHM Educational Group, and she serves on the Southern Regional Educational Board and the ACT Increasing Course Rigor and Instruction in Biol-



RCSD Superintendent Lynn Weathersby announces to Ms. Shannon Moore's class that she is the 2013 RCSD Teacher of the Year. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

ogy Committee.

"When a student finally understands a concept, and the light bulb turns on, I know I have completed one of the most basic but rewarding tasks as a teacher. Teachers must continue their education in order to provide rigorous instruction that will enhance and contribute to successful academic student

achievement. Continuing to keep myself up-to-date and educated in technology is an important factor that has also influenced my overall teaching style," said Moore.

Moore is a graduate of Delta

State University with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with a concentration in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She currently teaches Biology I, Chemistry and Introduction to Biology.

"Mrs. Moore works really hard to reach all of her students by providing extra-help opportunities both before and after school. Students know she is available, and they are not intimidated asking her for help," said Pelahatchie High School Principal Shane Sanders. "Our students know she is dedicated to seeing them succeed."

Moore will go on to compete in the Mississippi Teacher of the Year from the Mississippi Department of Education. She was selected from a field of 28 RCSD teachers who were nominated by their schools.

Megan Hall Candidate for Ward 4 Alderman



SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

(Photo special to The Pelahatchie News) As a small town girl, I have always appreciated the warmth and sense of pride that a tight-knit community shares. I have loved Pelahatchie and all its qualities. For this reason, I want to officially serve our community as Ward 4 Alderman. Upon being elected, I will serve my constituents and the community at-large with the respect,

integrity, and honor that this position demands.

I will work to help promote small businesses. My husband and I are both small business owners and understand what it takes to keep a company alive and growing. I also understand what brings new businesses to an area. I am committed to making Pelahatchie a place that homeowners and businesses want to call home.

Sustaining our community and improving quality of life is essential to attracting new residents. As a REALTOR®, I understand how schools, public works, police, fire services and crime statistics impact a person's deci-

sion when choosing a place to call home.

I am committed to promoting economic development, revitalizing our neighborhoods, and advancing

"I am committed to promoting economic development, revitalizing our neighborhoods, and advancing community services."

community services. I love this small town and all the future possibilities that are ahead. Pelahatchie

needs fresh, forward-thinking ideas to help bring forth the greatest results. I would greatly appreciate your support and your vote on June 4.

- Married to Kevin Hall
- Co-Founder and President of Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary (2010-present)
- Members of Pelahatchie Baptist Church
- Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Belhaven University
- Board of Directors, Jackson Association of REALTORS®



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Special to
The Pelahatchie
News

From the Mayor's Desk

BY: KNOX ROSS, JR., MAYOR OF PELAHATCHIE

We have just finished a rainy February, which is good for growing things but hard for making progress on outdoor projects. I am pleased to report to you that our Town is moving out of the worst of our recent economic hardships and making progress. Our sales tax revenues are up substantially from the previous year, and we will not see the effects of the new Fred's store until next month. I want to thank you for giving our merchants a chance to earn your business. By doing that, you have helped to strengthen our town's economy, which increases the chances of attracting more businesses and making it an even better place to live. We opened up bidding on Mill-

town Park on the 28th of February.

We also have tentative approval to put the Brooks Street/Lake Road overlay project out for bid; however, we still need final approval by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, which, hopefully, will arrive soon.

We also should be able to put our water, sewer and street paving projects out for bid soon. We are awaiting final drawings from our engineer.

We are seeing new interest in our community from industrial prospects. This is an encouraging sign regarding our community and the overall economy, and we are working hard to make our community as inviting as possible.

As you may have noticed, a new business is set to open in the former Farm and Home Center location. Papa T's is an antique business owned

by Tim Lawrence, and it will be open soon. We appreciate Tim's confidence in our town and wish him the best.

We also have contracted with Waste Management to place a recycling bin at the town barn near our rubbish collection area. While we

"I want to thank you for giving our merchants a chance to earn your business."

have not had the bin placed as of yet, look for it because it should be placed any day now. We will also update this on our Facebook page.

As always, I encourage you to



give our local businesses an opportunity to earn your business. I also encourage you to "like" our Town Facebook page. We have lots of information there. Also, if you have a local business, please take the time to set up a Facebook page of your own and let us know about it. We love to share your products and services on our page so that we can get the word out.

As always, many thanks to the staff of *The Pelahatchie News* for producing a paper that we can take pride in. Please give the advertisers in this paper an opportunity to earn your business. Without them, it would not be possible.



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EAST RANKIN GENERAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATE

EVENT

MARCH 7

DISTRICT TEACHERS MEETING

MARCH 8-15

SPRING HOLIDAYS

MARCH 29-APRIL 1

EASTER HOLIDAYS



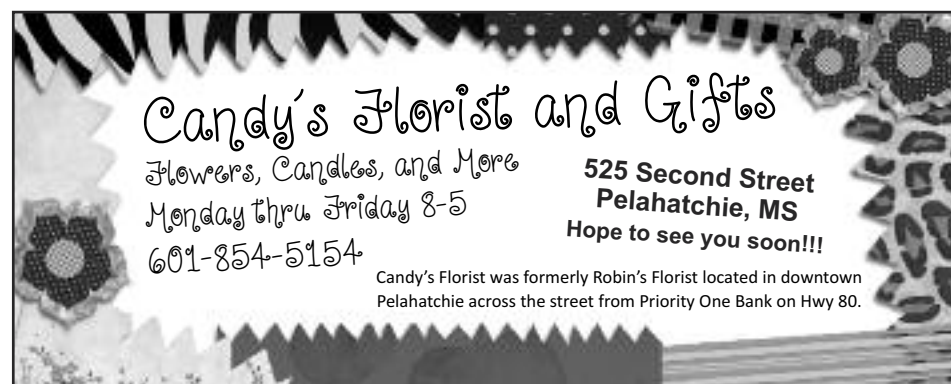
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Pelahatchie Attendance Center Venture team takes home first

**By: AMY TILL, PAC
VENTURE TEACHER**
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ticipated and completed the
state portion of the Missis-

sippi Future Problem Solving
Affiliate Bowl at the Univer-
sity for Women in Columbus,
Miss. The Team also won first
place in the senior division for
Community Problem Solving.

*Pictured are PAC Venture six team members; L to R, Abby Bouslay,
Kameron Morris, Drew Harrell, Jordan Bishop, Jacob Henderson and
Anna Creel. (Photo by Amy Till)*



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Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department wins first place in chili cook-off



The Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department's Flame Tamers participated in the 2013 Putting Out The Flames Chili Cook-Off on Feb. 9 in Flowood, Miss. The department won first place in the chili cook-off. (Pictured from left to right) Chief Clark Phillips, Asst. Chief Dennis (Papa D) Jackson, Asst. Chief Jenny Coward, Capt. Joey White, Capt. Richard Irby, Lt. Debbie Scarberry, Tyler Ogden, Austin Brunt, Kirkland Phillips, Tabitha Phillips and James Skinner. (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)

PAC rifle team places 5th in Mississippi/Louisiana Rifle League

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

The Pelahatchie JROTC Marksmanship Team won 5th place in the Mississippi/Louisiana Rifle League. The Team is comprised of Willie Meadows (team captain), Leah Jackson, Brittney Gordon, and Tristan Smith. Competitions began in September of 2012 with 37 teams competing, and the season ended with the league championship match on January 26, 2013. Leah Jackson took first place in

the "Guts Match" during the competition.

"It was an extremely tough competition, and we were most proud of being the only 1A School in the championship," said SFC (R) John Gough, the Marksmanship Team coach.

The Marksmanship Team has qualified to compete in the Army & Air Force JROTC Service Championship from February 14 through February 17 in Anniston, Alabama.

PELAHATCHIE HIGH SCHOOL FASTPITCH SOFTBALL CALENDAR

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	JV	V
MARCH 7	NEWTON	AWAY	5 P.M.	6 P.M.
MARCH 8	LEAKE COUNTY	AWAY	5P.M.	6 P.M.
MARCH 21	MCLAURIN	AWAY	5 P.M.	6 P.M.
MARCH 22	HARTFIELD ACADEMY	AWAY	5:30 P.M.	4 P.M.
MARCH 25	NEWTON	AWAY	6 P.M.	4 P.M.
MARCH 28	SEBASTOPOL	AWAY	5 P.M.	6 P.M.

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- 10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
- 11:00 - Blended Worship Service
- 5:00 - Cross Clubs for Children & Students
- 6:00 - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

- 6:00 Family Dinner
- 7:00 - Children's Mission Activities • Student Worship
- Ladies Bible Study • Couples Support Group
- Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

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Fire Department News

BY: JENNY COWARD,
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

Well, here it is March already, and it is proving to stand true to the old saying about March winds. Let's hope another old saying of "Comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb" holds true as well.

The Delta District in February responded to a total number of 84 calls: Lake Harbor Fire Department-23 calls, Pelahatchie Fire Department-30 calls, Walters Fire Department-14 calls and Leesburg Fire Department-17 calls.

The Hot Spot is proud to announce that Pelahatchie Fire Department's Flame Tamers won the 2013 Putting Out The Flames Chili Cook Off on Feb. 9 hosted by the Rankin Chamber Leadership pro-

gram. The Flame Tamers also won the People's Choice Award. This award was voted on by the people for best chili. Lake Harbor Fire Department took third place in the event with some fine HOT chili. It was a great day for the Delta District. Nine Rankin County volunteer fire departments along with two individual businesses participated in the event. It was a day filled with laughter, friendly competition, smack talk and great fellowship among the brothers and sisters of Rankin County fire service. The event raised \$2,300 that will be split evenly among the participating fire departments. Hopefully, next year, more departments and supporters will come join in the event.

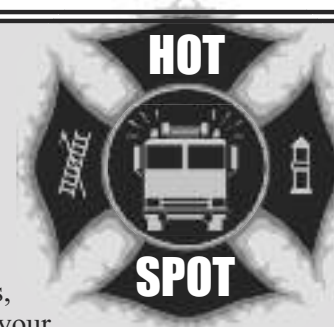
Some Pelahatchie firefighters attended Pelahatchie Elementary on Feb. 8 to put on a fire safety demonstration along with showing the engine and rescue to the 2nd graders who had been reading about firefighters and firefighting. The group had a great time and received Jr. Firefighter badge stickers, safety stickers and a personal invitation to come visit the station for a grand tour.

With all the rain that has been falling in our area, the Delta District wants to advise everyone that if they come to water over the roadway to, please, not cross through it. The water could hold hidden debris. It could be deeper than it looks, causing your vehicle to flood and stall. The water can

rise quickly within a matter of seconds, sweeping your vehicle away into deeper water like a river. Please fine an alternate route.

Remember, as we experience these March winds, keep safety first when you start your spring yard cleaning. When you start to burn leaves, tree limbs or branches, make sure the winds are minimal, and keep a garden hose close by to help contain your fire.

So, until the next Hot Spot article, keep safe, stay alert, and remember help is only three numbers away-9-1-1.



Rankin County School District teacher Kaye Sowell is named Metro Teacher of the Year

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

The Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership named Kaye Sowell, a kindergarten teacher at Rouse Elementary School in Brandon, as one of 12 Metro Teachers of the Year. The teachers were selected by the Chamber's Teacher Selection Committee from over 100 applications.

Sowell, a native of Pelahatchie and a graduate of Pelahatchie High School, has 32 years' experience and taught at Pelahatchie Elementary before moving to Rouse. She is a popular keynote speaker at state and national early childhood conferences.

"I am proud that I have built relationships with the families of the children I have taught," said Sowell. "Watching my students achieve success in their lives brings me great joy."

A graduate of Mississippi State University, she



Kaye Sowell is named a Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership Metro Teacher of the Year. (From left to right) Mid Mississippi Division Bancorp South President, Joseph Moss, Kaye Sowell and Chairman for the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership, Socrates Garrett. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

received her Master's Degree from William Carey University. Additionally, she is a board member with the Mississippi Early Childhood Association and has received their highest honor – the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Award. Sowell's other recognitions include the Southern Early Childhood Association President's Award and the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education Distinguished Arts Educator Award.

"Mrs. Sowell is very deserving of this award. She is always willing to go the extra mile for her students through creativity and other elements she brings into the classroom," said RCSD Superintendent Dr. Lynn Weathersby.

She and her husband Glen reside in Brandon, and they are the parents of two boys and one grandchild.



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Watoto Children's Choir comes to Pelahatchie

SPECIAL TO *THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS*

The Watoto Children's Choir, traveling from Africa, kicked off their six-month United States tour in Tomball, Texas, on Sunday, January 13, 2013, and the tour will be making a stop in Pelahatchie on Friday, March 8. The performance will start at 6 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church. The performance is free and open to the public.

The Watoto Children's Choir acts as Watoto ambassadors to raise awareness about the plight of orphaned and vulnerable children of Africa. Watoto is a holistic child-care solution initiated to serve the dire needs of Africa.

Each of the children in the choir has suffered the loss of one or both parents, and they live in Watoto Children's Villages, where they receive the care they need to grow into productive

citizens.

The choir presents an energetic fusion of contemporary gospel and traditional African rhythm. With vibrant African music, dance routines and life-transforming stories, the tour is indicative of the new generation of leaders emerging from Watoto.

"Through the choir's Concert of Hope, we share a message of transformation by telling the story of Africa's rescued orphans and women. We hope to reach out to audiences with the message of Christ's healing power," said Gary Skinner Watoto, founder of the organization.

The globally-acclaimed Watoto Children's Choirs have traveled internationally since 1994.

For the full choir schedule, visit <https://www.watoto.com/the-choir/see-the-choir>.



Watoto Children's Choir performing. (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)

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Community Spotlight: Pelahatchie Baptist Church

SPECIAL TO *THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS*

Since 1852, Pelahatchie Baptist Church (PBC) has faithfully brought the Pelahatchie community the message of Jesus Christ and has taken seriously the command to "Go into all the word and preach the gospel." The number of members has changed over the years; however, the call of the church has remained consistent "To love God and to love one another"

Last year, PBC was ranked second among churches of equivalent size for giving support to missionaries overseas.

"In 2012, we raised over \$70,000 to combat disease, hunger and spiritual apathy," said Senior Pastor Guy Hughes. "This year, we are sending a team of 22 members to the Dominican Republic to assist in earthquake recovery efforts."

PBC continues to expand their reach to other parts of the world. Currently, PBC is sponsoring the implantation of house churches in Southeast

Asia, and they have also sent students to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico.

However, PBC does not only support overseas mission; they are also committed to helping those in need within the state of Mississippi and in the local community. "In order to give back to our town, the church has supported the food pantry at the Pelahatchie Police Department," said Hughes. "We believe in giving our time and money to help those in need."



A frontal view of Pelahatchie Baptist Church. Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News

At PBC, anyone can find some way to give back. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at the home of

Mrs. Jean Ross, and they crochet prayer shawls to give to the critically ill for their physical and spiritual comfort. The Young at Heart Ministry under the able direction of Rita Mashburn keeps the senior adults active and loved.

Longtime women's ministry leader, Margaret Clay Davis, often takes singing groups to local nursing homes

to sing hymns of encouragement to residents.

Also, multiple opportunities are given to guide the next generation to be like Christ. Kevin McKee serves as student pastor, and his 22 years of experience serve the church well as he assists students through some difficult situations. Ty Pennington is in charge of the College & Career class that ministers to individuals who are in their early twenties. J.W. Barnes leads a team of bus drivers and ladies who pick up children in the community for the Wednesday night Engage Ministry.

"Pelahatchie Baptist Church takes very seriously its responsibility to assist families in passing the faith to the next generation," said Hughes.

Sunday morning church service begins at 10:30 a.m., and Sunday night service begins at 6 p.m. For more information about Pelahatchie Baptist Church, contact the church office at (601) 854-8809.



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Legislature update

BY: TOM MILES
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



(Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

We are a little over half-way through the 2013 Legislative Session and still working. Both chambers have passed general measures that originated in our own chamber and are in the process of getting appropriation bills passed. Many of these bills will greatly help average Mississippians and were passed with strong bi-partisan teamwork. As I have said before, if we work with each other, the public will benefit.

Now, the House's general bills will be considered by the Senate, and we will be voting on Senate measures. Here is a quick update on some of the issues involving Pelahatchie and some that you might be interested in:

You may have read, there is quite a debate underway about where the State Department of Revenue will be located. Proposals have been made to

move the agency to downtown Jackson, the old WorldCom building in Clinton and another location in Clinton. I suggested that a site in Pelahatchie should be considered as a reasonable option. Even though I knew it was a long shot, I believed the Pelahatchie option would have provided a chance to build a new building. Importantly, it would have also given an economic boost to Eastern Rankin and Western Scott County and would have been centrally located to most Mississippians.

Even though my amendment to House Bill 1337 to move the agency to Pelahatchie died on a voice vote, I believe the effort was worth it. Pelahatchie garnered some much-deserved recognition as a municipality working hard to increase its economic base, and I enjoyed working with the local officials trying to put Pelahatchie's name out there. We believe it could lead to other potential economic development projects in the future.

Our small towns deserve a chance to succeed. This is the reason I helped sponsor House Bill 590, which will provide grants and loans to revitalize our struggling downtown areas. This bill passed the House and is headed to

the Senate.

We voted to approve Senate Bill 2806, which will provide tax incentives to the new retail development, The Outlets, at Bloomfield in Pearl by designating it a "cultural retail attraction." Under this scenario, the development will also become a tourist destination providing interactive, visual and audio opportunities for people to learn about Mississippi's rich music heritage. All of us are excited about the economic boom this development will mean, not only to Rankin County, but to all of the communities served by the I-20 corridor. I voted in favor of this bill and will continue to push for economic development opportunities such as this for our communities. This is expected to bring 1,600 new jobs to Rankin County and Central Mississippi.

In a banner decision for Mississippi students, we passed House Bill 317 by a vote of 115-4 to waive community college tuition for Mississippi students with a C or better average. We believe this is an important step in providing worthy Mississippians a shot at a college education. As a proud graduate of Hinds Community College, I believe we should do everything pos-

sible to support our community colleges and encourage our students to attend them. I am very proud of this effort.

The House also passed two important public education bills. House Bill 781 provides a phase-in of pre-kindergarten instruction, and the Governor's Educational bill HB 890 focuses on student literacy in reading and math. It was also amended giving a \$5,000 across-the-board raise for our teachers who have not received any salary consideration in many years.

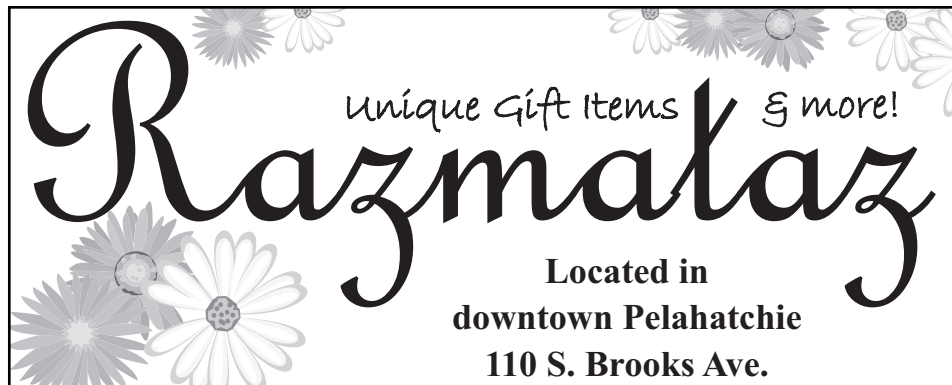
I am the lead author on House Bill 269, which was passed unanimously 118-0 by the House on Feb. 7 and was released to the Senate on Feb. 14. This bill provides increased death benefit from \$65,000 to \$100,000 for our law enforcement, fire fighters and emergency management. I believe this is the least we can do to show our appreciation to the brave men and women who live their lives in service of others.

Erin's Law is still alive, and I am happy to report that the Senate version passed the chamber by a vote of 51-0. My hat is off to Sen. Nancy Collins of Tupelo for shepherding this measure
— continued on page 11 —



Preparing for tax season? Gear up for tax season with Ross & Betts, PLLC

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**PASTOR'S
CORNER**

By: MICHAEL SIMPSON SENIOR
PASTOR METRO BAPTIST CHURCH

Sing your heart song

Drifting off to sleep, I hear, "Daddy! Daddy! I don't feel good. I feel like I am going to throw up."

After instructing her to get up and drink a little water, she did so and felt a little better. So, she laid back down.

After a little while I heard, "Daddy, it's back again. I'm feeling like I did before."

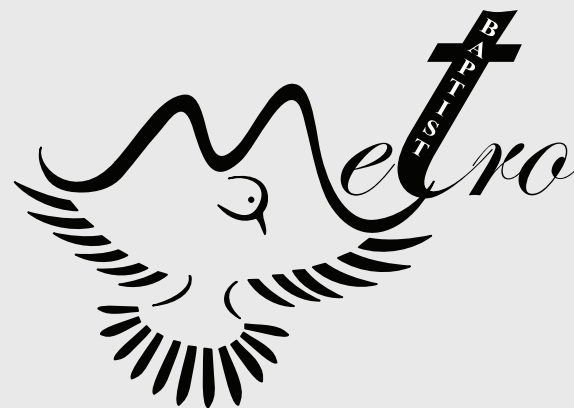
Earlier in the evening, when we had retired for the night, she had told her mother that she was fearful and wanted a light on, to which her mother complied. I remembered this and told her that she was suffering from anxiety. We tried to identify the source, but never could pinpoint what may be stirring these feelings.

I am quite familiar with the unseen oppression. So prayerfully, I led her in some hymns and spiritual songs. She tried to join in, but I could see her anxiety was overwhelming. The worship was not piercing her heart. They were simply words to her. It is amazing how fear and anxiety do not always need a tragic or profound

source, but only a victim. It is difficult to shake.

*"I instructed her to sing
her heart song to God"*

After still seeing the anxiety in her eyes, I was compelled to ask her where those songs were that she would sing. She admitted that she did not know. I clarified by saying, "The songs that you would make up and sing to God." Again, she confessed that she did not know. I explained that anxiety had suppressed them, and fear had overwhelmed her. The devil had stolen them. I pleaded with her to dig deep and pull out that heart song. I instructed her to sing her heart song to God. She struggled, but then, it came. Soon, she was singing something about wandering aimlessly in the dark and how God found her; he guided her out into the light. Her eyes began to come alive, and she was renewed. Then, I rested, if but for a moment.



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Legislature update

— continued from page 9 —

through two committees and the Senate. The House will now have the opportunity to stand up and protect our children from sexual abuse and sexual predators.

On another good note, all bills that would have affected the Public Employees Retirement System's benefits to retirees have died on the calendar. There was just no reason that anyone could find to support altering the system. A number of my colleagues and I have pledged to fight any changes in the future.

I voted to protect the personal information of people who register to carry concealed weapons. House Bill 485 overwhelmingly passed the House and is now going to the Senate. In this day and time, it is far too easy for people to fall prey to identity theft. Once a thief has access to your name, birth date, address and social security num-

ber, the damage can be swift and heavy. No one should be exposed to this kind of risk simply because they want to carry a concealed weapon.

Also, gun owners will be interested in House Bill 2, which straightened out the language for concealed weapons. Before, the language was so vague that people were unintentionally breaking the law. Now, an individual can carry a gun in a holster and be within the law.

We will finish the session up around the first week in April. We still have a lot of work left to do. If you would like to visit the Capitol or set up a tour for yourself, your organization or church group, I would love to set you one up and introduce you to my colleagues. Feel free to contact me anytime at 601-469-7886, or email me at tmiles@house.ms.gov. You can also follow me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/reptomiles.

Kendall Rhodes signs with Belhaven

Kendall Rhodes, a senior at Pelahatchie Attendance Center, signed a letter of intent to play football at Belhaven University.



Kendall Rhodes signing his letter of intent with his parents Joe and Lori Lewis. (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)



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The First Apostolic Church of Pelahatchie will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on March 30-31.

Rev. Jerry Hamilton and congregation extend a heart felt welcome to all our friends.

The Saturday night service will be at 7 p.m. featuring special speaker Rev. David Tipton, district superintendent of the United Pentecostal Church of Mississippi, and music will be provided by Jackson First Pentecostal Church Men's Quartet. One service only on Sunday at 10 a.m. with guest speaker Rev. Barron Price of Polkville.

**Please make plans to come and celebrate with us!
We look forward to seeing everyone!**



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