

Cold temps may have damaged plants

See page 5

Banker's note: 7 tips to prevent tax ID fraud

See page 9

NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

March
2018

Volume 7

Issue 3

Pelahatchie, MS

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PELAHATCHIE, MS
PERMIT NO. 4

Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Multicraft Academy wins Governor's Award

By Susie A. Wolfe

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) and Multicraft International accepted the Governor's Award for its Multicraft Academy partnership program at the 2018 Mississippi Education Partnership Conference on February 27.

The Partnership, which is now at the one-year mark, is a Rankin County School District (RCSD)-funded two-year manufacturing course curriculum leading to Basic Manufacturing Certification, OSHA Certification and a Silver Level Career Readiness Certificate. The program is free to students and counts as college credit for those who plan to pursue two- or four-year degrees or Career Technical Certifications.

Nine students are enrolled in the first year of the two-year program. For-

continued on page 3



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Accepting the Multicraft Academy Governor's Award at the February 27 Awards Ceremony (l to r) are: PHS Principal Bryan Marshall; Multicraft International President Brad Williams; PHS Instructor John Gandy, Maggie Stevens, MAPE President; and Multicraft International CEO Andrew Mallinson.

Board votes to cut mayor, board salaries, but not to hire city clerk

By Susie A. Wolfe

In the February 5 Board Meeting, the aldermen voted unanimously to reduce the mayor and aldermen's salaries to \$250 a month due to budget concerns. The mayor's salary was \$1,000, so was cut 75%, while the aldermen's salary was \$500, so it was cut by half.

The Board also unanimously voted to hire Janice W. Jones as city clerk for \$45,000 a year, and Ricky Harrell as zoning administrator at \$300 a month. Mayor Ryshonda Beecham vetoed that motion from the February 5 meeting, and the Board did not overturn it at the February 17 Special Meeting. Beecham's formal typed veto stated "Nepotism." The Board failed to conduct a fair review of qualified candidates in the search for a new City Clerk. Numerous qualified

candidates were submitted by this office to the Board, which were summarily rejected. Furthermore, the Board has failed or refused to provide my office with relevant information regarding town expenditures and information needed to make an informed decision with regard to the hiring of a new City Clerk. Furthermore, no information was provided with regard to the reasonableness of the proposed salary of the new City Clerk."

Beecham had also vetoed Ricky Harrell's appointment to zoning administrator, which the Board overrode and confirmed his position at a pay rate of \$300 per month.

Due to Mayor Ryshonda Beecham's veto of other previously approved resolutions, the Board overrode many of those resolutions, including banning cell phones from the meetings and support-



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie City Hall

ing the aldermen's rights to make recommendations during the meeting if not on the agenda.

The Board voted unanimously to not

accept the proposal presented from M & R Protective Services to purchase additional cameras for City Hall.

In other business, Hunter Arnold with Waggoner Engineering gave an update on the expected construction and permit limits of the lagoon by 2021. Also, Police Chief Kevin Poole asked if the Town's Curfew Ordinance needed to be updated. It was tabled and will be discussed in March's meeting.

The Town also accepted nine scoreboards valued at \$200 from the City of Brandon. Mayor Beecham requested a status update on the State Auditors Investigation, with Attorney Brad Mills responding with "no report."



Dr. C. Stewart Strange
Dr. Chandler H. Pleasant

Treating Children,
Adults, and Seniors
Accepting Insurance, Medicaid, CHIPS, and CareCredit

Cleanings • Fillings
Extractions • Whitening
Dentures • Crowns
Root Canals • Implants
and More

Monday 7 a-7p, Wednesday 8a-5p
and every other Friday 8-12

601-854-7478
www.eastrankinfamilydental.com

A Caring & Friendly
Atmosphere



Chief's Comments: How to solve an unsolvable problem



By Guest Columnist
Chief Kevin Poole,
Pelahatchie Police
Dept.

Special to Pelahatchie News

I would like to express the anguish I feel about the school shootings that have happened in recent days. My heart is heavy and burdened with this reoccurring issue. A school shooting or any act of violence toward a large crowd of defenseless people is very troubling.

These situations will be dissected, analyzed, and engraved in the minds of not only the ones affected, but everyone, forever. The fact of the matter is that we live in a society where this behavior is not a common occurrence, and this allows us to get complacent and relaxed. We hear phrases like "that won't happen here" or "we have never had a problem before."

The warning signs of the individuals are often overlooked. In my

opinion, it is because we don't want to believe how violent someone can be. The Bible has given us rules to live by. This is in the form of the Ten Commandments. The commandment I am referring to, is "Thou shall not kill." To take another individual's life is a crime and a sin.

The world we live in has downgraded both of these. We hear words like insanity. Insanity is used all too often, but God gave us the ability to choose between right and wrong. The majority of people with mental health issues have the ability to choose between right and wrong. Ask yourself this, if they can't choose between right and wrong, why do they always pick life over death when it comes to the death penalty?

There should be no choice. If you cowardly attack a group of innocent people, then you should swiftly receive the maximum punishment. People will say they are sorry for their actions and we should forgive them. Why? If your answer is "because the

Bible says we should," then remember, the Bible also says thou shall not kill. We have to decide what laws as a society we are going to live by. I say we prosecute these individuals quickly and we give them the strictest punishment our laws will allow.

I would like to say, here at Pelahatchie Police Department, we have our citizens' and students' safety as our highest priority. I have spoken to our school's administrators, and they have taken proper procedures for students' safety. The Police Department and our schools are communicating daily and discussing the best defense to prevent any issues. We have plans in place and are improving them more every day. These situations are difficult to prepare for because it is a senseless act of violence, meaning it usually comes as a surprise. The one thing we have to fight is complacency. The plans and procedures have to be in place and we have to be diligent in following these procedures. We are preparing for something that we pray



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Police Department badge

never happens.

Please contact the Police Department with any concerns. We are here to help. We have mental health organizations ready to help and assist any way they can. There is no perfect answer for these issues. Instead of trying to understand these cowardly acts of violence, we should be working together to prevent them.



P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Volume 7 Issue 3
Circulation - 3,300

Publisher
Clay Mansell

claymansell@pelahatchienews.com

Managing Editor

Susie A. Wolfe
(601) 566-1932 x2
news@pelahatchienews.com

Graphic Designer

Katie White
(601) 566-1932 x5
designer@pelahatchienews.com

Sales Representative

Susalyne Bennett
(601) 566-1932 x3
susalyne@ourhometownpaper.com

Intern

Josh Carter

For submission information, email
news@pelahatchienews.com.

The Pelahatchie News is published
on the first Tuesday of every month
in Pelahatchie, MS.

Copyright 2016. All rights reserved. Materials may not be
reproduced in whole or in part without written permission
of the publisher.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/PelahatchieNews



RANKIN COUNTY CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

March

23

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL: (601) 825-2268**

CASTLEWOODS COUNTRY CLUB

Benefitting the Rankin County Sheriff's Department

Fusion Martial Arts



www.fusionma.net
601-759-1123

EZ WHEELS INC.

Kubota

For Earth. For Life.

Your authorized Kubota dealer!
601-854-5112 601-854-5162



Trustmark

Banking and Financial Solutions

From the desk of the Mayor: Moving our town forward



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Ryshonda H. Beechem, Mayor of Pelahatchie

Change is inevitable. However, change can be good. We need to stay focused on our goal, move straight ahead towards growth one step at a time. Don't let the things we can't do overshadow the things we can!

I would like to thank Priority One Bank for donating \$500 to Milltown Park every year starting March 1. I

would also like to recognize the City of Brandon for donating nine scoreboards to Pelahatchie's Milltown Park. Things are moving in the direction they should.

We are growing and trust that eventually you will learn to survive the new normal. Every day is a new day! Let's not lose our vision, and have faith in your future. Pelahatchie is "A Place to Prosper."

You are significant, and everybody matters! Passionately play your position in moving our town forward!
Mayor Beechem

continued from page 1

Multicraft Academy wins Governor's Award

ty-three junior high and ninth graders are in the pipeline taking Career Explorations, which impacts 14% of the junior and seniors.

Instructor John Gandy said that, after his presentation to the group about the partnership and getting kids prepared for work after high school, many of the other schools approached him expressing their interest in a similar program.

Multicraft International, a world-class electromechanical components manufacturer headquartered in Pelahatchie, offers paid internships for seniors and work-study programs for incoming se-

niors and hands-on training on manufacturing systems and equipment. The students will have direct interaction and Q&As with employees and Multicraft engineers. Already, students have participated in a product design project for Multicraft Ventures.

News for the future impact on the community is that the Academy has plans to become certified as an Adult Craft Center, and that qualified students may enroll in Hinds Community College's Advanced Manufacturing Program without taking prerequisite courses.

MC announces scholars

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mississippi College (MC) Office of Academic Affairs released the president's and dean's list scholars for Fall 2017. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system, and for the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average.

The President's List at Mississip-

pi College for Fall 2017 includes two from Pelahatchie, Courtney Crockett and Lydia Nipper. Three were named to the Dean's List: Chancellor Easterling, Ethan Martin, and Rebecca Ross.

Mississippi College, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a private, co-educational, Christian university of liberal arts and sciences serving more than 5,100 students, from 40 states and more than three dozen countries.

Legislative updates: House amends bill to stop graduation exit exams



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Tom Miles, State Representative, House District #75

The House spent most of last week in floor debate on appropriation and bonding bills.

Of those measures, House Bill 1592, the general appropriation bill for the K-12 Mississippi Department of Education, was passed and sent to the Senate with a major amendment, which I offered.

You may recall that I had introduced a measure in the early part of the session to do away with the mandated state exit exams for our seniors and instead rely on the ACT as an accurate measure of college-readiness. Many worthy, adept young people have been

denied the right to graduate due to their performances on exit tests. Since 2014, passing every state "exit exam" is not required for graduation, due in part from prior legislative pressure to kill the tests. The State Department decided to allow a few other test instruments to count toward graduation readiness, including making 17 on specified portions of the ACT.

Some people believe that by loosening the ties to these exit exams, the state's graduation rate has risen. It is allegedly at 83 percent now – almost the national average. Some have even gone so far as to claim the exit exams don't even exist – rather, they are actually "assessments." Our teachers and students know exactly what they are – an impediment to effective instruction.

The amendment I offered to House

Bill 1592 states that as a requirement for state funding, the Department will do away with these exit exams counting toward graduation requirements. Last year, Mississippi had over 600 students that could not graduate because of these state exit exams that had already passed their other school work.

The State Department is currently under a \$110 million contract on its testing programs. Meanwhile, teachers and students are going without basic services. An impact of all of this testing is that teachers are forced to "teach to the test," and, consequently, many important aspects of the whole educational process go lacking. Teachers are under such strain to make sure their students pass these tests that they must forego teaching well-rounded subject matter and even establishing a positive

mentorship with their students.

That's why I not only urge support of my amendment to House Bill 1592, but I will be fighting for all of these standardized tests to be eliminated. Our teachers know how to determine if a student has learned the necessary subject matter in their areas. Teacher-made tests have worked for generations, and I believe it's time we return to that tried and true way of measuring whether a student deserves to pass or not.

I look forward to hearing from you on these or any other issues. You can contact me at tmiles@house.ms.gov or 601-469-7886.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Representative Tom Miles serves as State Representative for House District #75 in Scott and Eastern Rankin Counties.

January Pelahatchie Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pictured are the January Students of the Month (l to r), front row: Madeline Cain, Eriberto Banuelas, Bailey Smith, and Mrs. Kelsey Nobles; middle row: Beth King, Coriah Jones, Emmie Hoard, and Dwight Garletts; and back row: Keyanna Flores, Jacob Thompson, Deion Grant, Deuce Ward, and Dakota Holmes.

Katy Craig named RCSD new teacher of the year

By Josh Carter

"It was a huge shock to me. I feel very undeserving," said Katy Craig, recipient of RCSD's New Teacher of the Year. "It was very humbling. I see teachers, day in and day out, working harder than most people could imagine, and giving all of themselves to this job and to this school and to our district. To know that I was thought of, and to be recognized among a crowd of people, who work so hard and give all of themselves, was a huge honor."

The Tupelo native has always known she was born to teach.

"My mom tells a story about how, when I was little, we would go to McDonald's Playhouse and I would just gather people on the playground and play school with them. It's all I've ever wanted to do. When I got to college, I stuck with the same major all the way through and never questioned it."

Craig said that to her, the best part of teaching is watching the transformation her students undergo within the short span of a year.

"I teach sixth grade, so they are at a very formative time in their lives. I



Special to Pelahatchie News

Katy Craig is a first-year teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary School teaching sixth grade Social Studies.

will get a kid in August, and they are completely different by May. To see them discover who they want to be, and find their voice, and realize that they have the power to make a huge difference in the world they live in, is really cool to be a part of."

But what makes a good teacher? Craig thinks it's a combination of things, including "being willing to listen to the needs of children. Somebody very personable, understanding and compassionate."

Craig also believes that the best teachers are a life-long learner and somebody who's always willing to learn the new technology, the new curriculum, the new expectations to better equip students to better meet those expectations.

"Social Studies is my favorite subject! I love history, have always loved history. I think it's really important to study the past to figure out where we want to go as a society moving forward, and I hope that's something my children take away from my class."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Josh Carter is a student at Mississippi College interning with the Pelahatchie News this semester.

Cold temps may have damaged plants



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Winter's cold injuries can lead to future plant problems. Many plants will be paying the cost of this year's winter cold for months or even years to come. Problems may appear at any time, from June through September and even in next year's spring. Wilting leaves or a thinning canopy may be seen in the summer's heat. These symptoms may have been caused by this winter's hardships. A plant that does not emerge from dormancy in spring, may have received a fatal injury this winter.

Animals can escape to safety, when the temperature drops. Plants have to withstand whatever comes their way. They prepare for colder weather by reducing the amount of free water in their water-(xylem) and food-(phloem) carrying vessels.

If plants don't reduce the amount of free water, ice forms between the plant's cells themselves, causing the cells to weaken or collapse. Injured phloem will

carry fewer nutrients to the roots, stunting root growth. Injured xylem will carry less water to the branches and leaves.

Plants that have formed tender leaves in response to late pruning's or a fall application of nitrogen, are particularly susceptible to cold damage. As are plants that have been under stress, such as drought conditions.

Weakened plants may seem to emerge from dormancy and flower just fine. Those buds were formed last year, and the plant set aside necessary nutrients. Once the plant uses up those resources, symptoms may appear. You may see signs of cold damage in almost any plant part. Roots, especially, young feeder roots, may be discolored and rot away. Twigs, branches, or the trunk may have split bark, separation of the bark from the cambium, and even sun scalding. Leaves or needles may show tip burn. Fruit may shrink.

Check for cold damage this spring as you clean your garden or flower beds. Examine trunks, branches, and limbs for cold cracks. Remove affected branches and limbs. There is not a whole lot you can do for split trunks.

Walters planning to turn lifetime love of animals into profession



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Susie A. Wolfe

Gabbi Walters is following her dream to become a veterinarian. Now a senior at Pelahatchie High School (PHS), Walters has a 4.0 and is taking dual enrollment courses, works part-time at Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, and is involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Rankin County 4-H showing livestock.

She has already received college scholarships, the Metro Christian Leadership Scholarship, Rankin County Livestock Junior Board Scholarship and the Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions Scholarship. She plans to go one year at Hinds Community College Rankin, then on to Mississippi State University (MSU) where she will major in Animal Dairy Science / Pre-Vet. She just attended the MSU Vet Aspire Program where she visited campus to learn more about that major.

This year's Miss PHS, Most Intellectual and Most Likely to Succeed, Walters began riding horses at age three, then got into barrel racing, and is now showing livestock. Though she is the only one in her family that chose this path, she said that her family has always supported her.

She obviously loves animals, just ask her mom, Lacie. Walters said she used to ask permission to bring the animals home, but now just asks forgiveness. She currently has two standard horses,

a mini pony, a miniature donkey, a pot bellied pig, two goats, a hedgehog, a Red Angus cow/calf pair, and a Red Simmental cow. Dr. Charles Edwards and Supervisor Steve Gaines were early cattle mentors. She currently shows the cow/calf pair for Black Jack Cattle owned by Michael and Sarah Smith in Pulaski.

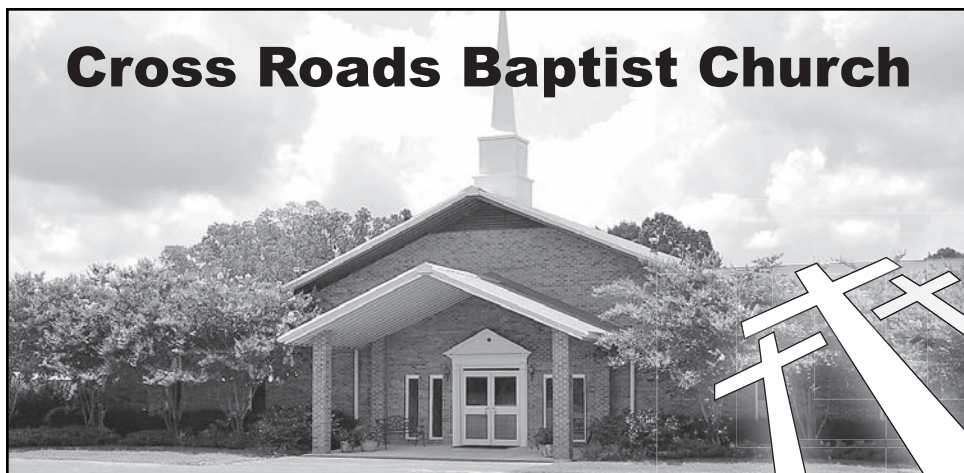
The two goats are "therapy animals" she takes to Mississippi Care Center once a month with the Crooked Creek team. She is also going on a Mission Trip with this vet team to Nicaragua June 9-16. In addition, Walters will be attending the State FFA Convention June 4-6, and showing at the Junior Red Angus National Show June 17-23.

Walters is third generation PHS. In addition to her parents, Gabe and Lacie Walters, both sets of grandparents, Terrell and Gretchen Walters and Ricky and Virginia White, are also PHS graduates. Her brother, Cass, is in the ninth grade and her sister, Maddie Grace, is in the seventh.

Walters is also president of the Student Council, president of FFA, second lieutenant in the Army ROTC, as well as member of the Beta Club and Phi Theta Kappa. She kept stats for the football team for the last three years and also sings for the Praise Team at Antioch Baptist Church.

Pay attention to this name, because there is much more coming from Gabbi Lee Walters.

Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday Schedule

8:30 - Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
11:00 - Blended Worship Service
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

104 Crossroads Road • Pelahatchie, MS 39145
(601) 546-2297 • www.crossroadspel.org

ERA students win at MC Tournament



Special to Pelahatchie News

On February 9, East Rankin Academy (ERA) students attended the 2018 Mississippi College Science and Math Tournament in which over 50 high schools participated. The students pictured had winning test scores that include scholarships. Shown (l to r) are: Sam Martin, top 20% in Biology; Mollie Macon, top 20% in Mathematics; Jackson Harper, top 10% in Mathematics and top 20% in Physics; Tyler Betts, top 10% in Biology and top 10% in Mathematics; and Cameron Boman, top 20% in Biology.

ERA students receive writing awards



Special to Pelahatchie News

Three East Rankin Academy (ERA) students were recognized as Mississippi Scholastic Writing Awards contest winners. Pictured (l to r) are Dana Watkins, Honorable Mention; Cole Jones; and Alexis Boman, Silver Key Recognition. The contest was presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, and the Eudora Welty Foundation, the state's affiliate for the writing awards, providing students opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships.

Taylor signs with MGCCC



Special to Pelahatchie News

Case Taylor recently signed to play football with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs. Pictured (l to r) first row, are: Trent Taylor, dad, also an ERA graduate; Case; Landy Taylor, mom; and second row, Reece Cordell, brother, ERA sixth grade; Madelyn Cordell, sister, senior; and Coach Durwood Anderson.

Ross & Betts, PLLC

Knox W. Ross, Jr.
Shirell Stuart Betts
Certified Public Accountants

P.O. Box 369
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Office: 601-854-7007
Fax: 601-854-7008

Kennedy Lawns

"Where quality matters."

15% All
Flowerbed
Services...

Jeremy Kennedy
601-941-4429
Knndyhomes@gmail.com

...when you sign up for mowing!

911 Stegall Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Alli~Mac's Salon & Gifts

Allison McDaniel
owner/stylist

386 2nd St., Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Located next to Fred's

601-900-8185

Walk-Ins Welcome

ERA junior varsity girls win district



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) JV Lady Patriots are District Champions. Pictured (l to r) first row, are: Karlee Harrison, Anna Peden, Bre Harrison, Adyson Tadlock, Mary Blossom, Anna Hutson, Tyler Henderson, and Macy Brunt; and second row: Brooke Renfro, Anna Fisher, Kelly Boydston, Halle Huffman, Brett Bridges, and Kate Betts.

Harrell named zoning administrator

By Susie A. Wolfe

Ricky Harrell has lived in Pelahatchie more than 40 years. In addition, he has worked here for many years as accounting and general manager of the Egg Processing Plant, owner of the Bait Shop, and even running a cattle operation. He retired in 1997 as maintenance supervisor from University Medical Center in Jackson.

Harrell was named the new Town zoning administrator at the February 5 Board Meeting, taking the place of Lynn Gunn, who resigned in January. At the meeting, Harrell had said that he only wanted \$300 a month to cover expenses, because he knew the Town was having money problems.

"I like Pelahatchie," said Harrell, whose son, Brady, is the public works director. "I want it to look neat and clean, so everyone can enjoy our little town."

Harrell and his wife of 47 years, Gayle, also have another son, Ben, who is a lieutenant at the Reservoir Fire Department. They also have three grandsons, Andrew, a senior, and Aiden, a fifth grader at East Rankin; and Lane Shelton, a tenth grader at Morton.

Since his retirement, Harrell has spent



Special to Pelahatchie News

Ricky Harrell was approved as zoning administrator in the February 5 Board Meeting and was out the next day inspecting houses and doing his new job.

his time restoring and showing old street rods and volunteering to help the Town wherever needed. As zoning administrator, he will inspect buildings, houses or property to issue permits to build. He will also give a monthly report to the mayor and aldermen at the Board Meeting.



WE'RE HIRING!

YOGLI ON THE LAKE JOB FAIR
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018
12 NOON UNTIL 3 P.M.

We will be taking applications for our 2018 season.

We have openings in all departments, Cafe, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Ranger Station, Golf Cart Rentals, Recreations and Pool.

The pay rate for this year is \$8.40 an hour. Department heads will be here for you to talk with. If under the age of 18, please bring a parent with you.

143 Campground Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Thank you, Management

PHS Band performs at Biloxi Mardi Gras Parade

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School Band was invited to participate in the Krewe of Neptune parade in Biloxi. There were 15 bands participating from Biloxi to Montgomery, Alabama. The Krewe provided a generous donation for the band's participation and awarded them a plaque for their outstanding support. The band performed songs like "Do What You Wanna" and "Minnie the Moocher." The parade aired live on WLOX and WXXV-TV.

"Parades are a wonderful opportunity for students to obtain performance experience," said Band Director Helen Rettiger. "Performing jazz music is very key to our culture. Jazz is America's music. It's essential for Mississippi-

pians in that Mississippi is the birthplace of the blues and New Orleans, just a few hours away, is the birthplace of jazz. We should be proud in keeping the spirit of this music alive."

"Parades also allow the public to witness and appreciate young people in performance. I can guarantee that every band that performed practiced diligently for this event. It's very rewarding for the students to be cheered as they are seen in a professional light."



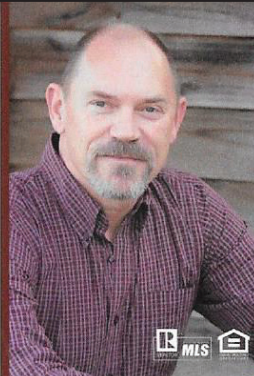
Special to Pelahatchie News

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT DIRECTORY



HOPPER PROPERTIES

Steve Duran, REALTOR®
Cell 601-672-6324
Steve@HopperMS.com
HopperMS.com
"Mississippi's Home & Land Brokerage"



RICHLAND WRECKER SERVICE & AUTO REPAIR

We Go The Extra Mile • 24 Hour Service
22 Years Experience in Auto Repair

Brakes • Timing Belts • Water Pumps • Clutches • Certified A/C and More

Bus. 601-936-0003 **24 HOUR** 2651 Hwy. 468
Fax 601-936-0353 **601-502-3706** Pearl, MS 39208

WE BUY JUNK CARS

Master Card American Express Discover VISA

 **Crossgates Jewelers, Inc.**
Tammy & Gerald Frazier
Owners

(601) 939-9313 401 Cross Park Drive
Watch & Jewelry Repair Suite A
Custom Design Pearl, MS 39208

Specialty Tree Service LLC
601-405-5857

Specializing in large and dangerous tree removal

Free Estimates!

Gabe Walters
601-405-5857

Tree Trimming • Stump Grinding
Lot Clearing • Debris Removal • Sawmill
Underbrushing • Firewood





136 Front Street Lake, MS 39092 601-775-3400
3054 Highway 80 W. Morton, MS 39117 601-732-3624

WOLF FUNERAL SERVICES, INC.
"Familiar faces providing personal service in your time of need."

www.wolffuneralservices.com

 **NEWS**
Pelahatchie

View your town's paper online
at pelahatchienews.com!

TOMMY MILES
AGENCY PRINCIPAL

 **Allstate.**
You're in good hands.

TRI-COUNTY INSURANCE AGENCY
89 HWY 481 SOUTH
MORTON, MS 39117

Phone: (601) 732-6769
Fax: (601) 732-8777
Email: insurant@bellsouth.net

LAMPTON-LOVE GAS CO.

RESIDENTIAL - FARM - INDUSTRIAL
SALES & SERVICES
GAS - SYSTEMS - CARBURETION

 PEOPLE TRUST OUR PRODUCT AND SERVICE

DANIEL ROBINSON
MANAGER

PELAHATCHIE, MS
601-854-5256

WE ARE A GAS MAN COMPANY

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, INC

Charles M. Edwards, II, DVM
Staci L. Rhodes, DVM

3435 Shiloh Rd./P.O. Box 130
Pelahatchie, Ms. 39145
www.crookedcreekanimal.com

Phone: 601-854-7808
Fax: 601-854-7810

Follow us on:
www.facebook.com/CrookedCreekAH
www.instagram.com/ccanimalhospital



Banker's Note: Seven tips to prevent tax ID fraud



By Guest Columnist
Harvey Lott, Vice President,
PriorityOne Bank

Special to
Pelahatchie News

With the 2018 tax season underway, all customers should take extra precaution when filing their return to prevent their exposure to tax fraud.

"Fraudsters are using very clever tactics to get a hold of your personal information and submit false tax claims," said Robbie Barnes, President and CEO of PriorityOne Bank. "Consumers must be suspicious of any communication from the IRS – through email, text or social media – that requests personal information, and should keep a watchful eye out for missing W-2s and mail containing sensitive financial information."

Tax identity fraud takes place when a criminal files a false tax return using a stolen Social Security number in order to fraudulently claim the refund. Identity thieves generally file false claims early in the year and victims are unaware until they file a return and learn one has already been filed in their name.

PriorityOne Bank is offering the following tips to help prevent tax identity



Special to Pelahatchie News

fraud:

- **File early.** File your tax return as soon as you're able giving criminals less time to use your information.

- **File on a protected Wi-Fi network.** If you're using an online service to file your return, be sure you're connected to a password-protected personal network. Avoid using public networks like a Wi-Fi hotspot at a coffee shop.

- **Use a secure mailbox.** If you're filing by mail, drop your tax return at the post office or an official postal box instead of your mailbox at home. Some criminals look for completed tax return forms in home mailboxes during tax season.

- **Find a tax preparer you trust.** If you're planning to hire someone to do

your taxes, get recommendations and research a tax preparer thoroughly.

- **Shred what you don't need.** Once you've completed your tax return, shred the sensitive documents that you no longer need and safely file the ones you do.

- **Beware of phishing scams by email, text or phone.** Scammers may try to solicit sensitive information by impersonating the IRS. Know that the IRS will not contact you by email, text or social media. If the IRS needs information, they will contact you by mail first.

- **Keep an eye out for missing mail.** Fraudsters look for W-2s, tax refunds or other mail containing your financial information. If you don't receive your W-2s, and your employer indicates they've been mailed, or it looks like it has been previously opened upon delivery, contact the IRS immediately.

If you believe you're a victim of tax identity theft or if the IRS denies your tax return because one has previously been filed under your name, alert the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490. In addition, you should:

Respond immediately to any IRS no-

tice and complete IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit.

- Contact your bank immediately, and close any accounts opened without your permission or tampered with.

- Contact the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit records:

- Equifax, Equifax.com, 1-800-525-6285

- Experian, Experian.com, 1-888-397-3742

- TransUnion, TransUnion.com, 1-800-680-7289

- Continue to pay your taxes and file your tax return, even if you must do so by paper.

More information about tax identity theft is available from the FTC at ftc.gov/taxidtheft and the IRS at irs.gov/identitytheft.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Harvey Lott is a vice president at PriorityOne Bank and is the Branch Manager of the Collins Branch. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi the Mississippi School of Banking at Ole Miss. He is currently attending the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.






Congratulations
to our
President and CEO
Robbie Barnes
One of the
Mississippi Business Journal's
Top CEOs in Mississippi
for 2018

Pelahatchie High School FFA visits Capitol



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School Future Farmers of America visited the Capitol on Wednesday, February 21, and spoke with lawmakers. Pictured (l to r) are: Maddie Grace Walters; Bob Robinson, FFA advisor and Ag instructor; Bryce Jones; Katie Belle Boyer; Jon Huston Elliott; Isabella Atkinson; Gabbi Walters; Carmen Hamilton; Olivia Sirmon; Camden Patton; Chloe Walters; Senator Chris Caughman; and Anna Grace Carter.



Hales CPA Firm is a full-service accounting firm offering a wide variety of services to individuals and organizations.

Areas of specialization include:

Tax services and tax preparation • Development of accounting systems and controls
Interim and ongoing CFO/Controller services • Profit analysis, financial analysis and reporting
New business formation • Business valuation • Litigation support • Audit representation

Call for Free Initial Consultation

HALES CPA FIRM, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants

401 Cross Park Drive, Suite C, Pearl MS
601-890-9883
halesCPAfirm.com

Pelahatchie Baptist Church begins Upward Soccer

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Baptist Church is set to start practices for Upward Soccer the week of February 24. The matches will begin the week of March 24, with the awards banquet being planned for Sun-



Image special to Pelahatchie News

day, May 6. Upward Soccer is for children K4-6th grade.

Pelahatchie Powerlifting sets personal records



Special to Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Chiefs won the 3-2A Region Powerlifting Meet in February. The Chiefs had seven lifters compete in this meet. The qualifiers were: JD Williams Third Place, 132; Caleb Moore, Third Place, 148; Avery Lewis, First Place, 165; Ahmad

Johnson, First Place, 198; Garrett Day, Third Place, 220; Greg Beemon, Second Place, 275; and Gunner Till, First Place, 308+.

The next competition is in March at Bogue Chitto for 2A South State. The boys competed hard with eight athletes setting personal records recently in their lifts.

Woodson named Rankin County School District Secondary Teacher of the Year



Photo by Pelahatchie News

By Susie A. Wolfe

Althea Woodson was named the Rankin County School District (RCS-D)'s Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2017-2018. Along with the honor, she will receive \$1,000 to use for strategy purposes in her room.

Woodson, also the Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Teacher of the Year, has been a math teacher there for three years. She teaches Algebra I, College Algebra, and Calculus. A Jackson native, she previously taught at Canton High School for three years, in Texas for eight years, and at the college level.

"The students worked really hard last year and had 100% improvement /

growth," said Woodson, who is an Alabama State undergraduate and Jackson State Master's graduate.

She said she likes working close to home and in a smaller school where things are more hands-on. "We have a family-environment where we work together well. We all have the same goal -to improve student literacy and make students college and career-ready and productive citizens."

Nala, her daughter, is a fifth grader at Pelahatchie Elementary. Her parents live in Jackson and are retired. Her mother was also a school teacher.

The RCSD is the third largest school district in Mississippi, serving nearly 20,000 students in 28 schools.

SUBSCRIBE

Delivered for only \$30 outside the 39145 zip code.
If you live within the 39145 zip code the newspaper is delivered at no charge.

Do you enjoy the Pelahatchie News newspaper? Then have it delivered! We are pleased to announce that Pelahatchie News is now offering subscriptions for \$30 per year if you live outside of the 39145 zip code. Fill out and mail the form below to begin getting a copy delivered right to your door.

Mail to: **SUBSCRIPTIONS**
The Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Subscriber's Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: *Pelahatchie News*

Pelahatchie named Mid-Sized Library of the Year



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Branch Manager Tina Mauney, right, is shown accepting the Library of the Year award from CMRLS Director Mara Polk on February 2.

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Pelahatchie Public Library, part of the Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS), was named Library of the Year for the mid-sized category at annual staff development on February 2.

The Pelahatchie Library had the highest percent increase in program attendance, circulation, number of patron visits, number of computer uses and number of computer hours used.

Of the 20 libraries in the system, Pelahatchie is one of seven in the medium category. The others include Florence, Reservoir, Morton, Menden-

hall, Raleigh and Taylorsville. CMRLS serves approximately 216,000 citizens in Rankin, Scott, Simpson and Smith counties.

CMRLS Director Mara Polk said, "Under the management of Tina Mauney, the Pelahatchie Public Library consistently strives to provide the best customer service and inviting atmosphere by keeping current and popular materials for her community. Mrs. Mauney's dedication and passion for her patrons is reflected in her library's statistics which attributed to being selected as library of the year for a medium-sized branch. The CMRLS administration is proud of her efforts!"



4664 Hwy 18 • Brandon MS 39042
601-825-9816
HOMEGROWN! Grown Here to Thrive Here!
Super Selection of Vegetable and Flowering Plants for your garden.



Griffin Family Medical Clinic

Building a Healthy Community One Individual at a Time.

Mary Ann Griffin, CFNP
Tracie Bass, LPN

Kim Risher
Amanda Sloma

507 Hwy 80 West
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

601-854-8002

Pastor's perspective: New life in Christ



By Guest Columnist
John Vaughn, Pastor,
Cross Roads Baptist
Church

Special to
Pelahatchie News

After a very cold and wet winter, I am looking forward to the spring and the promise of new life that it brings. We've already experienced new life here at Seven Oaks. Within a week's time, we had a litter of puppies born, two litters of baby rabbits born, and a box of day old chicks arrived through the mail. That was five puppies, sixteen baby rabbits and twelve chicks. So, we had a lot of new life around our house!

The correct term for a baby rabbit is kitten, often shortened to kit. A nest full of rabbit kittens is collectively called a litter. I provide a nest box with hay in it for the doe. She pulls fur from her own body to make a nest in the back of the box. Her fur must be warm, because the kits survived the coldest nights we had in January! Domestic rabbit babies are born naked, with their eyes closed, and are completely helpless and dependent on the mother for food and warmth. They develop quickly, with soft fur starting to cover the body within a day or two, and the eyes usually opening when the kits are around 10 days old.

The mother rabbit, called a doe, produces a highly nutritious rich milk and only feeds her babies once or twice a day. In nature this reduces the risk of predators discovering the nest and killing the mother and her babies. Pet rabbits still retain this behavior. She feeds late at night when nobody is around to disturb her. In fact, in all the years that I have been raising rabbits, I have never seen a doe in the box with her small kits.

By the time the kits are three weeks



Special to Pelahatchie News

There was new life at Brother John's house recently. His dog, Doce Doe, recently had five puppies, and there is a photo of the newborn sixteen rabbit "kittens," plus he also had twelve baby chicks.

old, they are coming out of the nest box and beginning to nibble on the mom's food. I usually separate them when they are between five and six weeks old. Then the cycle starts again.

The baby chicks are called biddies. They were ordered from a hatchery in Iowa and were delivered to me by U.S. Mail. The day they arrived, I picked them up at the post office. The chicks come in a small box with some wood shavings in it, but no food or water. It took three days for them to come from Iowa. So how did they survive without

food and water for three days? When a chick hatches, the egg yolk is absorbed into its body and the yolk provides all the nourishment it needs for up to three days. Of course, as soon as they are placed in the brooder, they begin to scratch and look for food.

The biddies are hatched with soft down and must have adequate heat in order to survive. A heat lamp is placed in their brooder and they scurry around under it. Their feathers begin to develop immediately, and soon they have enough feathers to survive without the

lamp, unless it is extremely cold.

The pups were born to Doce Doe, one of our Teddy Roosevelt Terriers. This was her first litter, and also the first time that Chase was a father. Doce did a great job, and all five pups were born in about two and a half hours. The biggest weighed almost eight ounces and the smallest just six. Of course, they are born with their eyes closed and are totally dependent on their mom.

All the new life is doing well. The kits are weaned from their moms, the biddies are on the ground in their growing pen, and the pups will soon be going to new homes. The cycle of new life is an amazing thing.

Experiencing new life is important for us, as well. When Jesus was talking with Nicodemus in John chapter 3, He told him, "You must be born again." Of course, Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant and replied, "I cannot enter again into my mother's womb in order to be born a second time!"

But Jesus explained that the new life that a person can experience comes with a spiritual birth. We are born the first time with a sin nature, and our sin separates us from Holy God. A second spiritual birth is necessary for us to know God and have a relationship with Him. Our second birth occurs when we make the decision to trust Christ as our Savior. It's at that moment that we are "born again" and experience the new life that Christ provides and offers to each one of us.

My hope for you is that you have experienced new life in Christ. If you have not, please let me, or some other believer, help you understand what it means to be Born Again! I hope you have a great day, and as always, please take your family to church on Sunday!

For Daily Specials
Find us on Facebook

Dine-In or Call-In Orders Welcome!

Cross Roads STORE & GRILL
PELAHATCHIE MISSISSIPPI

1186 Hwy. 43 South • Pelahatchie
601-546-2255
Tommy & Diana Key, Owners

Home of the Hand-pattied Burger & Pattied Hamburger Steak & Gravy

Bar-B-Que
All Day Fri & Sat

Crawfish
Friday & Saturday

Cooked Louisiana Style!

Gardensong Fabrics

- Quilting Cottons
- Denim
- Knits
- Patterns
- Notions
- Thread

www.GardensongFabrics.com

Open Wednesday - Saturday
601.748.4870
1888 East Lincoln Road Brookhaven, MS

Facebook Instagram Pinterest

The Froghead Grill leaps ahead with franchise opportunities

Special to Pelahatchie News

With a fun, "Feeling Froggy?" slogan and a quick and tasty menu, The Froghead Grill bounded onto the Clinton scene just over a decade ago, opened a second location in Ocean Springs and is now eyeing new ponds to call home.

The Froghead Grill is looking for qualified franchise partners in its quest to expand in the central Mississippi market.

The family-friendly restaurant's casually Cajun vibe and quick "hop to it, hop through it" service have made it everyone's favorite lilypad in short order. The flagship Clinton restaurant was recognized as the 2014 Small Business of the Year and the new Ocean Springs location was honored as 2016 Restaurant of the Year.

"It's a proven track record," says The Froghead Grill founder Joshua Welch, whose enthusiasm for the concept and culture drives this expansion. His engineering and communications background, plus experience at the Walt Disney Company, feed into a strong business model for the highly competitive restaurant and hospitality industry.

"We've made ourselves more than just an eatery in the communities we're in," Welch says. Happy diners and robust community engagement are hallmarks as he spreads the Froggy way:

Live life to the fullest. The Froghead Grill's legend of mascot Fred the Frog rests on the enticing mix of great food, fun and friends. Whimsical touches make it a magnet for families.

The Froghead Grill's American eclectic menu focuses on homemade appetizers, sandwiches, quesadillas and wraps, platters and salads, and brings in Cajun flair with po'boys, seafood gumbo, red beans and rice and more.

Earth-toned decor delivers modern comfort and easy flow, with a bayou shanty nod. The attractive price point and fast-casual service — counter during the day and table side after 5 p.m. — make it a delicious draw for lunch and dinner. In addition to sodas, The Froghead Grill offers craft and local beers (including a few hoppy ones, of course!) as well as the classics.

Franchise partners through FHG Management can rely on site selection assistance, precision training, backbone and ongoing support from the franchise development team. The Froghead Grill model of 3,000-to-3,500 square feet is adaptable for existing buildings and shopping strip locations.

When The Froghead Grill lands in your town, it says this about your community: It's healthy, happy and hoppy go-lucky, and committed to the Froggy way. Live life to the fullest.

"Know it. Live it. RIBBIT!"

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Carolyn Anderson	64	Morton, MS	2/21/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Howard Sanderson	68	Walnut Grove, MS	2/3/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Pamela Ann Smith	48	Decatur, MS	2/5/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.

AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

Adult Book Club
Wednesday, March 21, 9:30 a.m.
Discussing Kristin Hannah's novel, *The Nightingale*

Floral Design 101
Tuesday, March 27, 1:00 p.m.

Call the library (601.854.8764) or visit our website (www.cmrls.lib.ms.us) to register.

USE WHAT THE PROS USE.

You'll see, first hand, why the most respected landscape professionals trust Exmark® 2-to-1 over the next best-selling brand.*



QUEST® STARTING AT
\$2,999

Based QZE708GEM42200 with 42" deck and 708cc Exmark engine. See your dealer for more details.

RADIUS® STARTING AT
\$4,999

Based RAE708GEM48300 with 48" deck and 708cc Exmark engine. See your dealer for more details.

**0%–42 MONTHS
LIMITED TIME OFFER**

On Purchases of \$1,500 or more of New Exmark Outdoor Power Equipment when you use the Exmark Credit Card made between now and 10/31/2018. 42 Equal Monthly Payments required. Certain restrictions apply. See your dealer for details.

exmark.com



Frederick's
SALES & SERVICE
"the choice in outdoor equipment"

SINCE 1993

601.824.0074
1006 HIGHWAY 471
Brandon, MS
www.frederickssales.com
Established 1993



CHEVROLET



ROGERS DABBS

CHEVROLET

CURTIS ROBINSON

601-942-3080

**FOR ALL YOUR
AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS!**

Pelahatchie High names Beauties and Beaus



Special to Pelahatchie News

Junior High Beauties and Beaus Top row left to right: Jactavious Macklin, Braden Centeno, Ayden Stewart; Bottom Row: Abbie Davis, Haylee Atkinson, and McKinley Goodin



Special to Pelahatchie News

Freshman Beauties Katie Boyer, Skylar Varnes, Reagan Sanders, Isabella Rust



Special to Pelahatchie News

Junior beauties Katie Bayliss and Amanda Trest



Special to Pelahatchie News

Sophomore Beauties Jacey Cooper, Olivia Sirmon, and Grace Alman



Special to Pelahatchie News

Senior Beauties Caiti Bowman, Lanie Burkes, and Maleigh Edwards

H & H Electrical, L.L.C.

397 Hwy. 43 South • Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Kevin Hall

Commercial
Industrial
Residential

Brian Hall

Office: 601-854-7887
Fax: 601-854-7378



REchelle's Pet Parlor

Professional Grooming
By Appointment Only

601-854-5353

518 Second Street - P. O. Box 943 - Pelahatchie MS 39145

ERA Lady Patriots play in State Tournament



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Lady Patriots won the 4A Division II State Championship, and went to the Overall Tournament held at Mississippi College the last week in February. The Lady Patriots defeated North Delta Lady Greenwave 69-49 to advance to the second round of play at Mississippi College, where Madison Ridgeland Academy defeated them in overtime 58-56.

COUNTRY BOYS APPLIANCE & FURNITURE

**30% OFF
ALL MERCH.**

**TH-SAT
MAR. 8-10**

1200 East Second St. • 601-759-5037

Country Boys Hardware 7-5 Mon-Fri, 7-12 Sat

Country Boys Furniture 8-5 Mon-Fri, Closed Sat

We NOW Do Screen Printing!

T-shirts, polos & sweatshirts. Send us your design or we will design it. Call 601-759-5037 or email at countryboysprinting@yahoo.com for pricing.

**Air Conditioners,
Grills, Refrigerators &
Freezers**







