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December
2019

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Issue 12
Pelahatchie, MS

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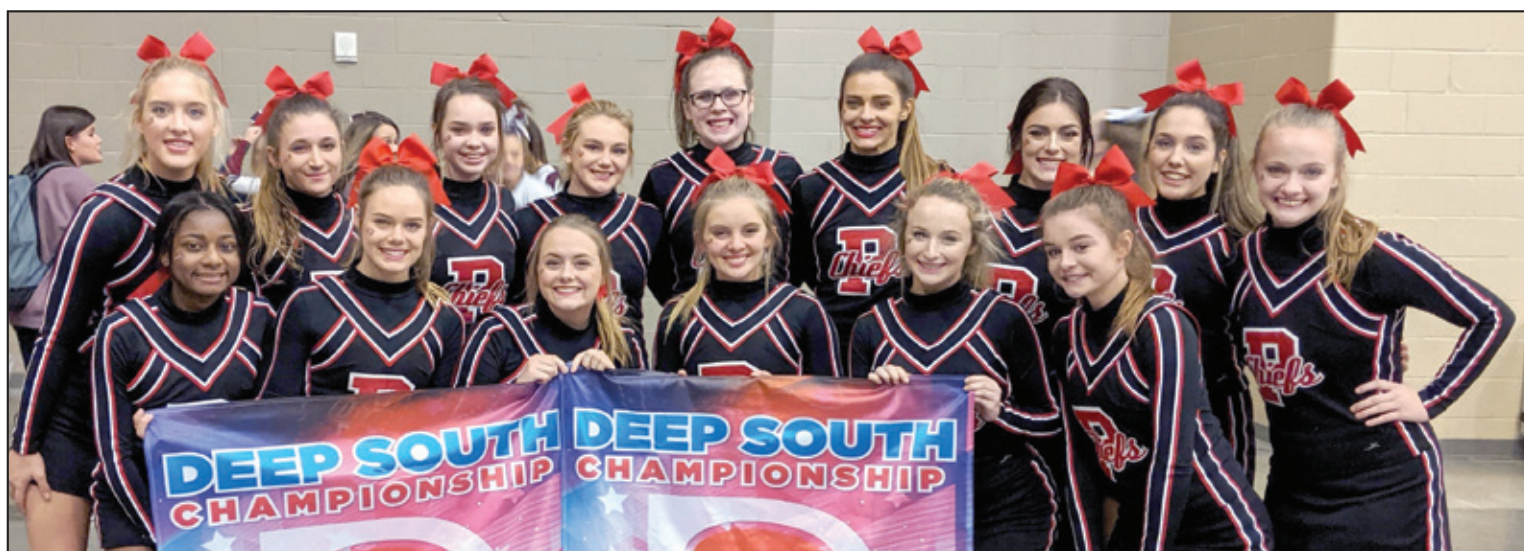
Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145

PHS cheerleaders named Grand Champions

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School cheerleaders competed in the varsity Game Day division of the Deep South Blues Classic Championship November 8 at the Jackson, Mississippi Convention Center. They not only won first place in their division, they also walked away winning Grand Champions of all Game Day teams competing. This means they scored the highest of all teams competing in this division.

The next competition will be on December 8 at the Jackson Convention Center. The MHSAA State competition will be held at the Jackson Coliseum on December 14.



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Grand Champion PHS Cheerleaders pictured (l to r) at the Deep South Blues Classic Championship, are: Jinodja Holifield, Collins Doster, Madi Holmes, Katie Belle Boyer, Adlyn Till, and Maddie Grace Walters; and back row: Makenzie Hester, Rose Gibney, Camden Patton, Maedlyn Cain, Meghan Herrington, Isabella Rust, Haley Mills, Madison Broome, and Malori Scherer.

ERCO named one of state's top nonprofits



Special to Pelahatchie News

ERCO was recognized by the Mississippi Business Journal as one of the state's top nonprofits at a November 21 ceremony at Old Capitol Inn. The Pelahatchie-based ministry also received recognition as one of Hometown Magazine's Top five nonprofits in Rankin County. Pictured (l to r) is Tim Loecher, Lynn Loecher, Tammy Brun, founding member, and Van Brun.

Stuart named ERA Homecoming Queen



Special to Pelahatchie News

Lexey Stuart was crowned East Rankin Academy (ERA)'s 2019 Homecoming Queen during halftime of the football game on October 24 between East Rankin and Lamar School. Stuart is the daughter of Doug and Wendy Stuart of Morton.



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Country Boys Hardware is only Deer 365 dealer in state

Special to Pelahatchie News

Deer hunters provide supplements and attractants to draw deer to their plots and improve the animal's health. Country Boys Hardware on Highway 43 is presently the only dealer in the state to carry the Banks Feed products Deer 365 supplement and Deer-N-Draw attractant.

The Arkadelphia, Arkansas-based feed company worked with the Mississippi State University Wildlife Division to develop the only product in the world that repels raccoons and opossums that generally eat 60% of regular supplements or attractants. Their biologists specify that any product that is four percent or greater in fat is an attractant, not a supplement, as is any product below sixteen percent protein. Fat hinders horn growth, according to the biologists.

Banks Feed, a Christian company that credits God with its leadership and success, is now in seven states, including Michigan, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Banks is seeking a distrib-



Photo by Stephen Kirkpatrick

Country Boys is presently the only dealer in Mississippi for the Deer 365 supplement and Deer-N-Draw attractant. The hardware store drives 15 hours to bring these products to the Pelahatchie market.

utor and better freight charges but, for the time being, Country Boys is making the 15-hour round trip to bring this product to their customers since they started selling it in October.

According to Store Manager Crystal Hawkins, "We respect the company for taking a stand with putting a cross on their packaging and refusing to take it off when asked to by a big box chain. Plus, the Banks' products have proven results. It has sold well."

Country Boys also carries a variety of Backwoods Attractants and deer feeders, as well as hunting gear.

Crooked Creek hosts Pet Costume Contest



Special to Pelahatchie News

Crooked Creek Animal Hospital hosted the Pet Costume Contest in the Pavilion at Muscadine Park during the Town's Halloween activities on October 31. Pictured are the Crooked Creek staff with pets and the inset photo is of the winner.



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ERA cross country wins MAIS Championship



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) Junior Varsity (JV) girls defeated 18 teams and 170 runners to become the MAIS JV Overall Cross Country Champions. Pictured (l to r), front row, are: Paige Mayatte, Arin Hawk, Kylee Holifield, Kaylynn Ramirez, Emily Williams, Lydia Collipp, Savannah Smithers, and Audrey Hawk; and back row: Rachel Smith, Leslie Scarberry, Marlee Rakinic, Katie Simpson, Jensen Baker, Rosa Garcia, Lane Riemann, Audrey Mayatte, Abby Raines, Cheyenne Derrick, and Coach David Hopper.



ERA Cross Country Coach David Hopper is shown with Audrey Mayatte, left, fourth place finisher and Lydia Collipp, right, first place in the MAIS JV Overall Cross Country Championship.



Carson Denton finished third in MAIS Junior Varsity boys overall two-mile. Pictured with him is Coach David Hopper.

Why trees do or don't have color leaves in the fall



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Special to
Pelahatchie News

We all know leaves turn color during the fall. This is because chlorophyll, which is the green pigment that gives leaves their green color, breaks down and disappears from leaves. Yellow and orange pigments, which were once hidden, are now visible. Trees like hickories, oaks, birches, sycamores and cottonwoods turn brilliant shades of yellow and orange.

What about pine trees? We rake pine straw. We rake or buy pine straw to put in our flower beds. We see a few pine needles on pine trees turning color in

September and October. The life cycle of needles on our pine trees is a little more complicated than our broadleaf deciduous trees.

Each fall, I usually get phone calls from concerned tree owners about why their pine trees are turning brown. Could it be pine beetles or the average life cycle of pine trees? To understand this, we need to know a little about the life cycle of needles, on our pine trees.

Each needle on a pine tree lives roughly one and a half years. Each spring, when

the tree begins to grow new tissue, they add new needles to the ends of each tree branch, roughly doubling the number of

needles on a pine tree. These new needles are stuck out on the ends of branches, out beyond the old needles. The tree uses both the old and new needles during the growing season. Then, in the fall, the pine tree reabsorbs the nutrients from the old needles only and then the pine tree drops the old needles.

This is noticeable in late September and October, as the portion of each

turf of needles closest to the trunk turns brown. The new needles, those that were newly grown the previous spring, stay on the tree all though the winter. In the spring, a new batch of needles will be grown on the ends of the branches, and the cycle continues.

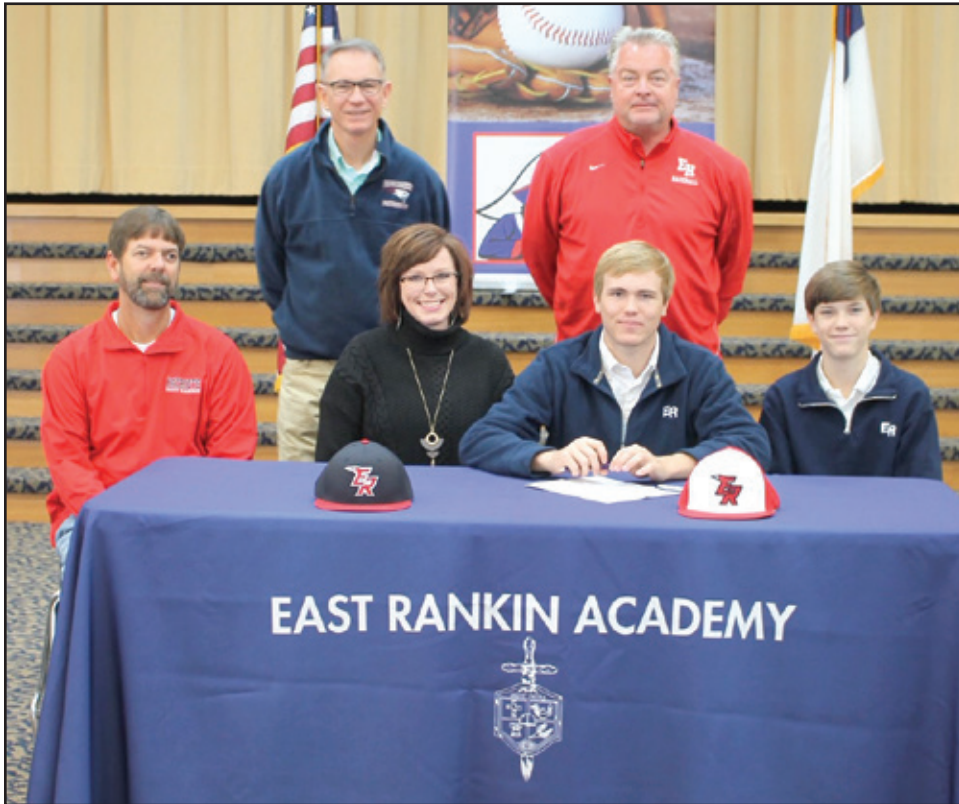
So, in the summer, pines have two ages of needles: one set a few months old (located on the ends of each branch), and another 15-18 months old (located on the trunk end of each branch), each doing photosynthesis. In the winter, all needles are the same age-the older needles being dropped the previous fall.

Our pines don't go into dormancy. Any time the conditions are right, the tree will absorb sunlight just like it does in the spring.



Special to Pelahatchie News

ERA's Martin signs baseball scholarship with Mississippi Delta CC



Special to Pelahatchie News

Patrick Martin signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorehead, Mississippi. Martin is a 3-year letterman for East Rankin Academy (ERA) in football, soccer and baseball, where he is a pitcher/infielder. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Jeff Martin, dad; Kim Martin, mom; Patrick; and Parker Martin, brother; and back row: Dan Davis, athletic director, and Steve Renfrow, head baseball coach.

ERA Quiz Bowl team competes in quarterfinals December 4



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) High School Quiz Bowl team scored victories over McLaurin High School and St. Joseph Catholic School in the Mississippi College Academic Tournament. The team will play in the quarterfinals on December 4. Team members pictured (l to r) are: Barron Burnham, Will Price, Tyler Betts, and Ethan Crain.

Local American Legion helps National guardsman's trek



Photo by Pelahatchie News

John Ring is walking across the country from the Tybee Island Pier in Georgia to the Santa Monica Pier in California to bring awareness to veteran's issues. He is averaging 20 miles a day with a 50 lb. pack. Pictured (l to r) at Yogi on the Lake are Wayne Hanson, Ring, and James Till.

By Susie A. Wolfe

John Ring stopped in Pelahatchie on Saturday, November 16, after starting from the Tybee Island Pier near Savannah, Georgia, on October 1. He is walking across the country to the Santa Monica Pier in California to bring awareness to veteran's issues, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Disabled American Veterans and veteran homelessness and suicide. Statistics show that 20 veterans and military personnel are lost daily to suicide.

Ring, a member of the Army National Guard 48th Infantry Brigade in Richmond Hill, Georgia, is averaging 20 miles a day with a 50 lb. pack. He is also raising money for Buddy Watch, Inc. which is building tiny homes for veterans in Midway, Georgia, close to Fort Sumter. He said he will write a

book on his journey and plans to retrace his route by car with his 13-year-old son to introduce him to the nice people he met.

Once he entered Mississippi, American Legion groups helped him with food, lodging and donations. James Till, Mississippi American Legion State Commander, and Wayne Hanson, American Legion Post 171 member, both of Pelahatchie, took him to dinner and helped him with lodging at Yogi on the Lake. They also gave him a monetary donation.

The American Legion is the world's largest veteran's organization and is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Till said that Mississippi has 186 posts in the state and 12,000 members.

To keep up with Ring's trek, like buddywatchwalkpiertopier on Facebook or visit www.wheresjohnring.com.



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Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Buddy Allen	71	Forest, MS	11/06/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Rodger Ellis	63	Meridian, MS	10/31/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Glenda Fredrick	70	Pelahatchie, MS	11/01/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Cora Goodson	90	Forest, MS	11/20/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Annie Griffin	75	Forest, MS	10/29/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Cleo Hines	78	Morton, MS	11/19/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Mandy Neumann	34	Braxton, MS	11/18/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jewel Rochester	94	California	11/09/19	Wolf Funeral Serv.

Pelahatchie Chiefs
2019 Basketball Schedule

www.rcsd.ms

December 3	St. Andrews	Away	6 7:30 pm
December 7	Morton Classic	Away	4 6:00 pm
December 10	Scott Central	Home	6 7:30 pm
December 13	McLaurin	Away	5 6:30 pm
December 17	Morton	Home	6 7:30 pm
December 20	Hartfield	Away	5 6:30 pm
December 21	Puckett	Away	4 5:30 pm



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he should go, And when he
is old he will not depart
from it. Proverbs 22:6

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Happy Holidays to all



By Guest Columnist
Teague Burchfield, Principal,
Pelahatchie High School

Special to
Pelahatchie News

I love this time of year! This holiday season has already allowed us to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for, as well as all the blessings we are able to enjoy in life. On behalf of Pelahatchie High School, I would like to say how thankful we are to you for allowing us to educate your children on a daily basis. We are grateful for a community that supports its public school system as well as all its academic and extracurricular endeavors.

We all now look ahead to Christmas break and the season of giving. This time of year, gifts come in many forms. Throughout the school year, we, as educators, take pride in providing our students with the gift of an education. Our students give back simply by receiving this gift. What a gift swap it is!

The holiday season closes with the year; it is a time to reflect on the work that has been done over the past 365 days. What successes can we look to imitate in the future? In what areas can we improve for our students and this community? The upcoming New Year is the perfect opportunity to apply the answers to these two questions.

Tis the season to send a few "shout outs" to several of our programs. First, congratulations to Coach Williams, his staff, and the football team for another 10-win season that included a district championship and playoff appearance. Next, congratulations to Colonel Hargett, Sergeant Gough, and the JROTC program for their success with their four-year inspection. They performed wonderfully!

To close, I would like to highlight a couple of events that are on the horizon for Pelahatchie High School. Our cheer squad competes on December 8 and 14 at the Dixie Competition and MHSAA State Cheer Competition, respectively. Also, please make sure to join us on Thursday, December 5, for our First Annual Arts Extravaganza when our Pelahatchie High School Band, Theatre, and Art departments come together for a wonderful event that will be sure to get us all in the holiday spirit! Finally, the end of the semester is upon us. We are only as good as our last day of work; let's close out the school year successfully. Exam Week begins the week of December 16, and more information is to come regarding the test schedule and check out procedures. The second benchmark window opens December 9 and closes as we leave for Christmas break. Encourage your students to be their best as we finish 2019!

Happy Holidays and Go Chiefs!

VanHorn promoted to Battalion Chief



Special to Pelahatchie News

Karl VanHorn was promoted to Battalion Chief at the Flowood Fire Department on October 21. He is also Chief of the Pelahatchie VFD. His family is also involved in fire fighting around Rankin County.

PHS falls in second round of MHSAA 2A football playoffs



Photos by MaChandra Forest-Wilder

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) and the Town of Pelahatchie are proud of the Chiefs' football season. Down 24-0 at the half in the MHSAA 2A second round playoff game against East Webster November 15, the Chiefs made an unbelievable comeback. Unfortunately, the night ended with a 36-35 heartbreaking loss. The Chiefs had a huge first round win November 8, where they won against Leland 41-14.

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Mayor's Youth Council coordinates Town events

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Mayor's Youth Council coordinated the Halloween Spook House and will coordinate the December 7 Town Christmas Parade and the January 25 Princess Ball.

The Christmas Parade is on Saturday,

December 7, at 10 a.m. The theme is "A Dr. Seuss Christmas," and it will be judged by the Mayor's Youth Council members.

The Princess Ball will be held in the Community Center on January 25. The cost is \$35 per couple. The Mayor's Youth Council members will be selling

tickets.

The Youth Council raised \$171 by running the Halloween Spook House on October 31, where they charged a dollar entry the night of Trunk or Treat.

The Youth Council says they would like to thank EZ Wheels for their donations and Crooked Creek Animal Clinic,

also to all of the participants in the Trunk or Treat, including Pelahatchie High School and East Rankin Academy. They would also like to thank Rod Beechem for making sure the haunted house was up, as well as Stacey Garrett and her husband, and a former Pelahatchie graduate, Prentiss McGee, for stepping in.

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PHS names October's Monthly Award Winners



Pelahatchie High School recognizes excellence in teaching and areas of student activity each month. October's winners are highlighted here. Farm Bureau Student Athletes of the Month - Tanner Wilson from Farm Bureau, Carlos Felix (left, center), and Athletic Director Sam Williams; (right) Makayla Maclin.



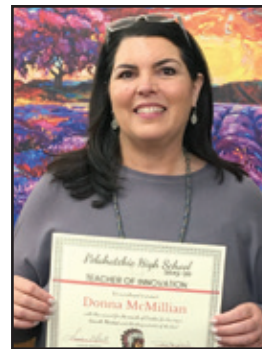
Excellence in Attendance - Devin Irvin, Bailey McKee, Kristen Griffin, and Abby Grace Hemeter



Excellence in Attitude - Seanadrian Johnson, Greg Beemon, Kiara Gary, and Lucas King



Athletic Achievement - JayQuan Love, Carlos Felix, Chrystianna Beeman, and Jacey Cooper



Teacher of Innovation-Oct-Donna McMillan



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Academic Achievement winners pictured (l to r) are, front row: Laura Renfro and Meghan Herrington; and back row: Destiny Turnage, Payton Sanders, Addison Lindsey, and Sarah Smith.

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PES chooses Super Chiefs for first nine weeks



Special to Pelahatchie News

These students were chosen for Super Chief the first nine weeks at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES). Super Chief students are chosen based on work ethic and perseverance. Pictured (l to r), first row, are: Cada Magee, Britani Lee, William Stingley, Michael Lee, Maddie Coleman, Jerry McDaniel, Aaron Griffin, Asher Perkins, Lee Swann, and Jax Parker; second row: Jayde McNair, Quavorious Fairley, Brooklyn Harmon, Mark Frey, Robert Christon, Tate Hopson, Reighlunn Gilmore, Celeste Adams, and Graison Redmann; and third row: James White, Tristan Burns, Elizabeth Coleman, David Usry, Jalyn Magee, Samantha Adams, and Alisa Strickland. Not pictured is Lailyn Macklin.

Sherill receives Children’s Minister certification



Special to Pelahatchie News

Samantha Sherrill, Children’s Minister at Cross Roads Baptist Church, received her certification through the KIDMINU program, with the Baptist Convention. She was one of only six ladies in the whole state of Mississippi to be invited to participate in this pilot program to train and equip ministers of children.

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Johnson named Metro Player of the Week



Special to Pelahatchie News

PHS' Ahmad Johnson was named WAPT Blitz 16 Player of the Week on November 6. Johnson rushed for 361 yards and had seven touchdowns and one interception against Morton. Pictured (l to r) are: Joe Cook, WAPT sports anchor; Johnson; Bank Plus rep; and PHS Head Coach Sam Williams.

Roberts named PHS Teacher of the Year

By Susie A. Wolfe

Tina Roberts was named Teacher of the Year for Pelahatchie High School (PHS). It was announced at the November 15 playoff game. This is Roberts' third year teaching at Pelahatchie, where she "works hard to keep students engaged and make content interesting and relevant" for Biology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology.

"My classes are a little different in that they tend to be slightly less structured than a typical classroom," said Roberts. "I believe that expecting students to sit still and quiet for seven hours a day is unrealistic...so we talk, we discuss content, we laugh. I try to make it fun and enjoyable. We work really hard, and we cover A LOT of content, but we have fun."

"I also work hard to create an environment where students aren't afraid to discuss concepts and answer questions for fear of getting it 'wrong.' I

try to teach them that it's ok when they don't respond with the answer I'm searching for...and that, more often than not, we learn more from our mistakes and errors than from our successes."

"Lastly, building relationships and making connections with my kids is huge for me. When my kids know that I care about them and respect them as a person, and not just as a student, they are almost always willing to go that extra mile."

Roberts' 8-year-old son Ethan is in the third grade at Pelahatchie Elementary. She also has two older sons, Jeff, who is deceased, and Scott. Her husband, Jason, is a nurse practitioner who just moved to Yakima, Washington, where she and Ethan will join him in the summer.

She has enjoyed her time teaching at a small school in a small town where everyone knows everyone, and she made lots of friendships at the school and in the community. She said she will be sad to leave.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Tina Roberts teaches Biology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology. This is her third year at PHS. She works hard to keep students engaged.







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Pelahatchie High School inducts Beta Club members



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School recently inducted the 2019-2020 Beta Club members pictured (l to r), front row: Olivia Sirmon and Sydni Goldman; row two: Mckinley Goodin, Malori Scherer, Chloe Walters, Abby Dawson, Camden Patton, Reagan Sanders, Scarlett Castillo, and Anna Grace Carter; row three: Madelyn Cain, Marie Valentine, Jacey Cooper, Victoria Thornton, Aliza Myers, Maria Banuelas-Lopez, Holden Gray, and Anna Scherer; row four: Justin Beeman, Deuce Ward, Meghan Herrington, Maddie Grace Walters, Mariah McGill, Kendall Jones, Julia Myers, and Nicole Rainer; row five: Gaven Boydston, Haley Mills, Collins Doster, Laura Renfroe, Kaitlyn White, Adlyn Till, Kenner Doster, and CJ Earby; and row six: Madi Holmes, Holly White, Wesley Anderson, Devin Irvin, and Greg Beemon. Not pictured are Terri Wiltcher, Elsi Munoz-Ramos, Rachel Wraight, Makaylee Hester, Makenzie Hester, Chloe Hamilton, Kayla Hobson, Katie Belle Boyer, Bailey McKee, Leah Carter, Addison Lindsey, and Haley Adams.

PriorityOne Bank says,
make your list,
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Seven ways to avoid a holiday spending hangover

Special to Pelahatchie News

As the holiday shopping season hits the home stretch, PriorityOne Bank has identified seven habits that shoppers should embrace to minimize their holiday spending debt.

"It's incredibly easy to go overboard buying gifts for loved ones during the holidays, but spending within your means will help keep your holidays merry and your finances bright," said Corey Carlisle, executive director of the American Banking Association Foundation. "There are simple things you can do to avoid a holiday spending hangover, like setting a budget in advance and avoiding impulse buys."

Below are seven spending habits Americans should consider to relieve the financial stress of the holidays:

- **Plan ahead.** Before you start shopping, develop a realistic budget for holiday expenses. Figure out your bottom-line number, and set aside holiday cash in increments throughout the year. If you need to use your credit card, think about what you can afford to pay back in January.

- **Keep track of other costs.** Don't



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forget costs beyond gifts, like postage, gift wrap, decorations, greeting cards, food, travel and charitable contributions.

- **Make a list and check it twice.** Keep your gift list limited to family and close friends, noting how much

you want to spend on each. If you're donating to charities, factor in the total amount you plan to donate and how much each charity will receive.

- **Shop early and space out purchases.** Avoid shopping while rushed or under pressure, which can lead to

overspending. Make sure to comparison shop online first, or download an app that lets you compare prices before you buy anything in a store.

- **Avoid impulsive spending decisions.** Finding a spectacular sale on something you've been wanting can easily throw you off course. Stay strong, and stick to your budget. Don't be blinded by limited-time incentives geared toward getting you to spend more.

- **Use credit wisely.** Limit the use of credit for holiday spending. If you must use credit, use only one card—preferably the one with the lowest interest rate—and leave the rest at home. Be sure to check statements for unauthorized charges, and report them immediately.

- **Save your receipts.** Not only will you need them for possible returns, you'll need them to keep track of what you've spent and to compare with your credit card statement. Knowing how much you spent will help you plan for next year, too. Keeping receipts for charitable donations will help you receive tax deductions in the spring.



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PES names Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The October Pelahatchie Elementary Students of the Month pictured (l to r) first row, are: Bailey Roberts, Gabe Lopez, Brooklyn Pilgrim, Demi Ward, Preston Stephens, Jailah Hughes, Jaxon White, Landon Boykin, Brody Whittington, and Jady Conger; second row: Kazariyah Stokes, Gavin Lightle, Autumn Scruggs, Parker Peavey, Chase Parker, Savannah Carlino, Nova Lamb, Maddox Johnson, and James Kitchens; and third row: Christian Bull, Aniyah Gilbert, Eli Adams, Natalie Hand, Jalyn Magee, and Ashton Moore. Not pictured is Trinton Cross Poarch.



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Bus Riders of the Month named for October



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Elementary Bus Riders of the Month pictured (l to r), are: Noelle Gardner, Kyra Bryant, Evan Shows, Michael Lee, Riley Jordan, Wezley Walters, Christian Bull, and Ruby Elliott.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School Bus Riders of the Month pictured (l to r), are: Gaige Conger, Sam Rogers, David Roy, and Ben Stribling.

Pelahatchie AJROTC upsets Northwood

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie AJROTC upset Northwood AJROTC 936 to 890 in the National Air Rifle League in November. Pelahatchie AJROTC was able to win, despite averaging 17 points lower than Northwood AJROTC coming into this game.

They currently have a 3 - 2 record. Pelahatchie AJROTC was led by, Landin Pierce, who shot a 238. The remaining contributing members were Jose Banuelas, Macy McCamon, and Kayleigh Keys. Pelahatchie AJROTC is coached by John Gough. Northwood AJROTC currently has a 2 - 2 record.

Northwood AJROTC was led by, Brooklyn Delpapa, who shot a 241. The remaining contributing members were Jack West, Alyssa Caples, and Derricus Allen. Northwood AJROTC is from Shreveport, Louisiana, and is coached by LTC Byron Lafield.

Pelahatchie AJROTC also competed against Mattoon AJROTC from Mattoon, Illinois. Mattoon AJROTC currently has a 2 - 2 record. Northwood AJROTC will compete against West

Carteret NJROTC from Moorehead City, NC. West Carteret NJROTC currently has a 1 - 3 record.

These two teams are competing in the Distinguished Division of the Orion National Air Rifle League. Sponsored by the Orion Scoring System, the league is a national team league for high school teams and junior rifle clubs. The league has two parts. An eight-week regular season going on now, followed by a single game Conference Title Game for the top two teams in each conference.

In each game, the teams compete in what is known as a Three-Position Air Rifle match. The match is modeled after Olympic Rifle competitions but adapted to high school-age athletes. Each athlete will shoot 10 shots in three different shooting positions: prone, standing, and kneeling. Each shot is worth a maximum of 10 points. The sum of points scored in the 30 shots is the athlete's total. The team score is comprised of the best four athletes from each team.

For more information, visit the Pelahatchie AJROTC team page at <http://www.orionresults.com>.

AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

DECEMBER LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Santa Claus is coming to town...

Thursday, December 5, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Tween Book Club

Thursday, December 12, 5 p.m.

Adult Book Club

Wednesday, December 11, 9:30 a.m.

(enter through rear entrance)

Library will close...

at 3 p.m. on Monday, December 23, and reopen Thursday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday and will close at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, and reopen Thursday, January 2, for the New Year's holiday.

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

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Pastor's perspective: Reflect on memories and reason for Christmas



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

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Christmas time's a comin'! And it won't take long to get here. It is an important time for families to gather, churches to present special programs, schools to be closed and stores to make sales! But the most important thing for all of us is to remember why we celebrate Christmas and to reflect on the true "reason for the season."

It is also a good time to renew traditions and to reflect on past experiences at Christmas that have helped make Christmas what it is to us personally. I can remember our first Christmas in Brazil, where we served as missionaries for sixteen years. We had arrived in October, and had learned some basic communication phrases. But our ability to speak and to understand Portuguese was still very limited.

On Christmas Eve, we went to a Brazilian church with some other missionaries. This particular church was having its Christmas pageant that night. It was

not a large church, and it was packed with members and invited guests. The cast members were all dressed in realistic costumes, and the church had obviously worked hard and long to present the story of Christmas in a beautiful and factual way. There was a lot of dialogue. We weren't able to understand a lot of the words, but we knew the story and were able to follow along well.

A couple of things really stand out in my memory of that night. First of all, the shepherds were out in the fields watching their sheep. These particular shepherds had a real fire burning in a container on the platform of the church.

Their dialog went on for a while, and the fire began to die down. It was then that one of the shepherds decided to revive the fire. From under his costume, he pulled out a bottle of alcohol and gave the fire a good squirt of it. The flames leapt up out of the container and touched the ceiling! The flame died down quickly as the pastor came running down the aisle. We couldn't understand what was said, but the pas-



Special to Pelahatchie News

tor had a serious conversation with that shepherd! Soon he came back down the aisle with the bottle of alcohol, and the pageant continued!

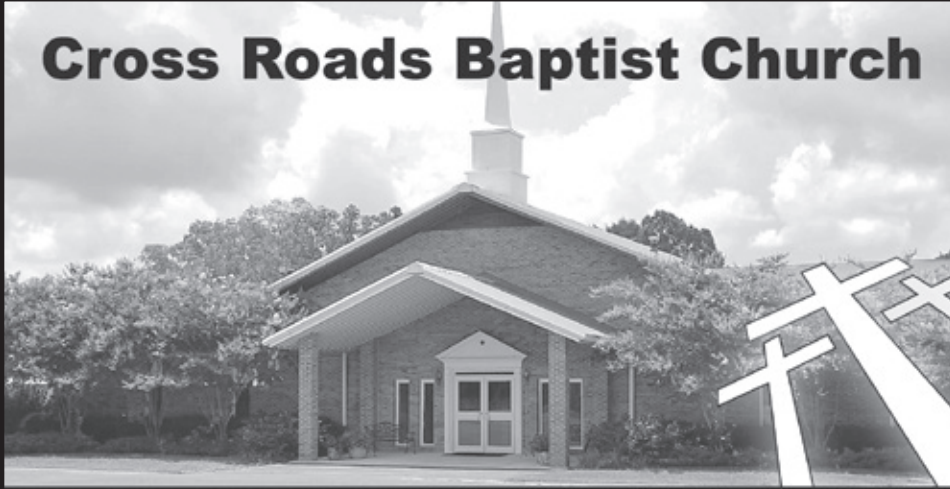
Another memory from that pageant was when baby Jesus was born. A real live baby was playing the role of the Christ child. The baby was placed in a manger in the center of the stage. The back side of the manger was elevated some so that the congregation could see the beautiful baby, which was probably 5-6 months old. It was a happy, active baby, smiling and kicking and squirming. It didn't take long for the baby to wiggle out of the "swaddling clothes," and it became obvious that this was a

real live baby BOY playing the role of Jesus!

After the pageant, we were introduced to another tradition that is practiced by Baptist churches in Brazil. The whole church family participated in a Christmas meal that was served at midnight on Christmas Eve. The church provided the meat, which was roasted by Brazilian standards on skewers over coals. The men of the church were responsible for getting the meat cooked, and the ladies of the church provided all of the side dishes and desserts. It was a wonderful meal, and the fellowship was even better. Of course, it was a little hard for us, not being used to staying up that late and eating a big meal at midnight. But it was a tradition that we came to love and participate in each year that we were in Brazil.

It's time for you to get ready for your Christmas traditions and re-live your Christmas memories. But, as you do, be sure that you don't forget what we are celebrating. It is the birth of Jesus Christ. He really is the "reason for the season!"

Be sure to take your family to Church on Sunday!



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

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Jeff Jones, Pastor
Parker Jones, Student Pastor
Joey White, Music

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Service Times:
Sundays:
 10:00 am - Sunday
 11:00 am - Morning Worship
 6:00 pm - Evening Worship
Wednesday:
 7:00 pm - Prayer Meeting,
 Adult Bible Study and
 Youth "JAM" Session



Pelahatchie Baptist Church

300 Church Street • Pelahatchie, MS 39145 • 601.854.8809
www.pelahatchiebaptist.com

Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am, 6:00 pm • Wednesday Youth & Children 6:00 pm Adults 6:30 pm

First Apostolic Church

508 Heslep St.
 Pelahatchie, MS 39145
 Phone: 228-219-1972

Pastor: Rev. Jerry Hamilton

Services:
 Sunday - 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.



Pelahatchie Elementary promotes love of reading

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Scholastic Book Fair is the main fundraiser for the Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) Library. This year, it was held on September 30-October 4. Family night was held on October 1 from 6-8 p.m., and grandparents' breakfast was on October 3 and 4. Scholastic's program provides half of the book fair profits back to schools in the form of 'Scholastic dollars,' which are used to buy books and technology for the library.

This year was record-breaking, as PES earned a total of \$4,316.82 in Scholastic dollars. PES would like to thank Crossroads Baptist Church and Pelahatchie Baptist Church for providing breakfast for the grandparents' breakfast. They would also like to thank all of the families in Pelahatchie for coming out to support the book fair!



PES students created projects for this year's Reading Fair. Students chose their favorite book for their trifold board projects. Rawls Hemeter won first place at PES with his reading fair project, Miss Nelson is Back.



Caiden Gray won first place at PES for her reading fair project, Extraordinary Jane.



Joseph Grogan won first place at PES with his reading fair project, Can You Believe: Hurricanes.



Addyson Nutt won first place at PES with her reading fair project, We Are the Groovicorn. She also won third place at the Rankin County School District-wide competition.



Lanna Grant won first place with her reading fair project, The Girl Who Drank The Moon. She also won third place at the Rankin County School District-wide competition.



Maci Vanderford (left) and Karlei Smith (right) won first place at PES with their reading fair project, The Jelly Beans and the Big Campe Kickoff. They also won third place at the Rankin County School District-wide competition.



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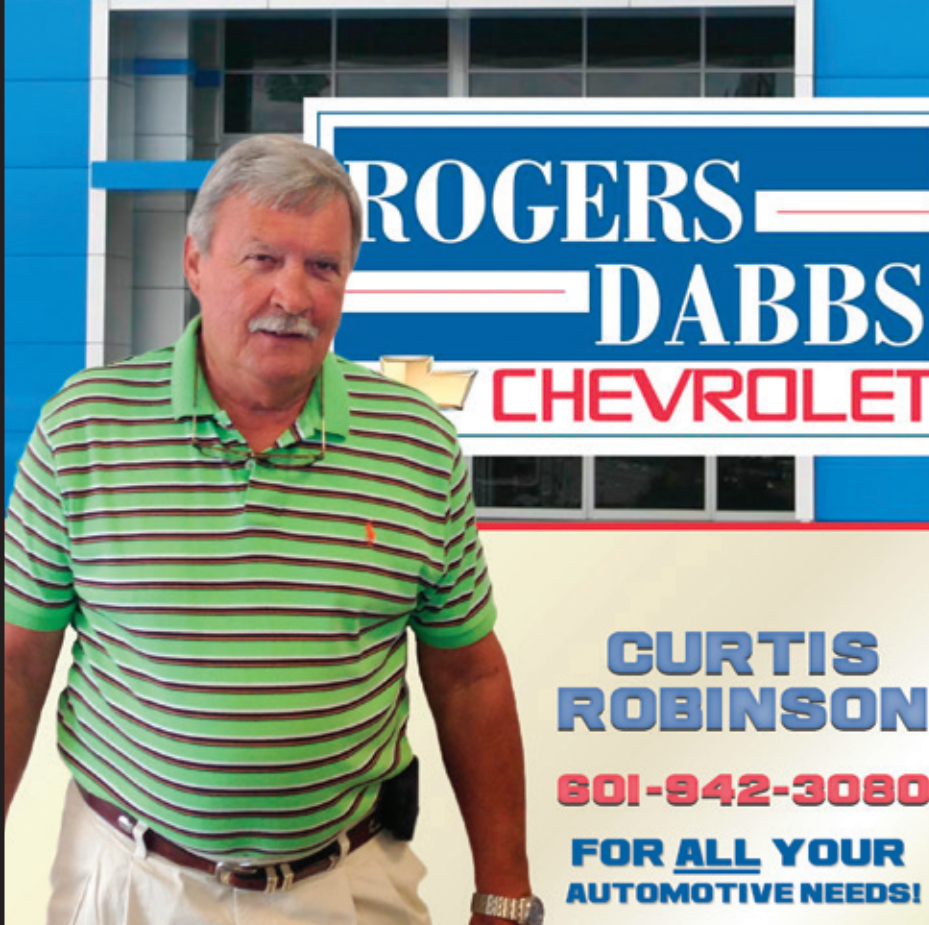
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Pelahatchie VFD hosts Tour of Homes Dec. 7



Photo by Pelahatchie News

There are five homes in the Saturday, December 7, Pelahatchie Christmas Tour of Homes from 12-3 p.m. benefitting the Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). There is a mix of new and old homes, all decorated for Christmas. The homes include JT and Angel Cooper - 712 Leesburg Road; Jim and Mary Ann Baker - 503 College Street; Colonel Ashley Mills - 304 College Street; Multicraft International Headquarters - the house/office beside the grocery store; and Greg and Tedra Sirmon - 614 Highway 43 North. Tickets are \$10 each, with children 12 and under free, and are available from any firefighter or auxiliary member. They can also be purchased at H&H Electrical or by calling Megan Hall at 601-540-4084.

PHS Ag donates wagon to Ag Museum



Special to Pelahatchie News

On November 15, Bob Robinson's Ag 1 and Ag 2 students, along with Coach Ed's Industrial Maintenance students, visited the Mississippi Ag Museum. Students got to meet and talk with Mississippi Ag Commissioner Gipson and Jim Rowell of Remington-Lott Farms. Mr. Rowell is the man who allowed PHS students to restore the wagon and donated it to the Museum. Students had a great time being able to see the wagon displayed and visiting the museum.



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