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# NEWS Pelahatchie

## Business Spotlight

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at your fingertips

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Pelahatchie News  
P.O. Box 771  
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Issue 6

December 2012

Volume 1

## Pelahatchie kicks off December with Christmas parade

BY: KRISTEN JONES

On Dec. 1 at 10 a.m., many holiday spectators lined the streets of downtown Pelahatchie in anticipation of the annual Pelahatchie Christmas Parade.

Several clubs and organizations participated in the event including CrawBilly's, Concord Baptist Church, Yogi Bear Park and The First Apostolic Church of Pelahatchie. Also, several classic cars and tractors joined the procession, and there was even a surprise visit from Santa himself.

The grand marshal, Mr. Ricky Harrell, led the line of colorfully decorated parade floats from Pelahatchie Attendance Center gym and down Brooks Ave., where the floats were inspected by a panel of judges, including a special judge, Pelahatchie's new State Represen-

tative, Tom Miles.

The parade continued its route through Pelahatchie while the judges conversed, and the winners of the float contest were announced as the floats made their way back down Brooks Ave. The winners were as follows:

1st Place- *The Pelahatchie News*  
2nd Place- Crooked Creek Animal Hospital  
3rd Place- The Watson Family

The first place float, sponsored by *The Pelahatchie News*, featured a red and green train with a real smoke stack and the Grinch who stole Christmas. The second place float, sponsored by Crooked Creek Animal Hospital, showed the crowd that Christmas could be tropical with a Hawaiian themed float. The third place float, presented by the Watson family, fea-



*The CrawBilly's float riding down Brooks Ave. (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)*

tured a float with snow and mistletoe and was followed by a pair of remote-controlled cars that pulled some floats of their own.

*The Pelahatchie News* would

like to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas parade as well as all the spectators who attended. We were honored to be a part of such a great event.

## Senior citizens enjoy Thanksgiving luncheon

By: Kristen Jones

On November 19, 2012, the senior citizens of Pelahatchie were treated to a traditional Thanksgiving meal by Police Chief Glenda Shoemaker and Alderman Margie Warren. The event kicked off at 11 a.m., with introductions presented by Mayor Knox Ross, Jr.

"We are glad to see that so many of our senior citizens could be here," said Mayor Ross. "It is a blessing that they could attend."



*Sheriff Bryan Bailey talking with the citizens about safety. (Photo by Kristen Jones)*

Sheriff Bryan Bailey took the stage next and warned the seniors to stay away from strangers that may try to

take advantage of them, and Pastor Guy Hughes from Pelahatchie Baptist Church took the time to express his thankfulness to be among such a fine group of people.

The devotion was presented by Lynette Little, reverend of Pelahatchie Methodist Church, and she asked the seniors what they were thankful for this year.

The greatest thing we have to be thankful for is our Christian heritage," said Pelahatchie resident Pharris Kempt.

Many other thankful thoughts were spoken, and then plates of turkey, butter beans and dressing were passed out to the seniors. While everyone ate and socialized, Joey Plunkett of Brudog Studios serenaded the crowd with his vocals. After everyone had finished their meal, some of the residents, including Pelahatchie resident Patsy Watson, took the stage and sang a few hymns to entertain the crowd.

For more information about senior citizen events, contact Chief Glenda Shoemaker at (601) 854-5223.



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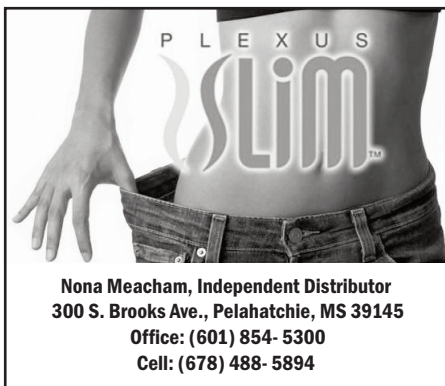
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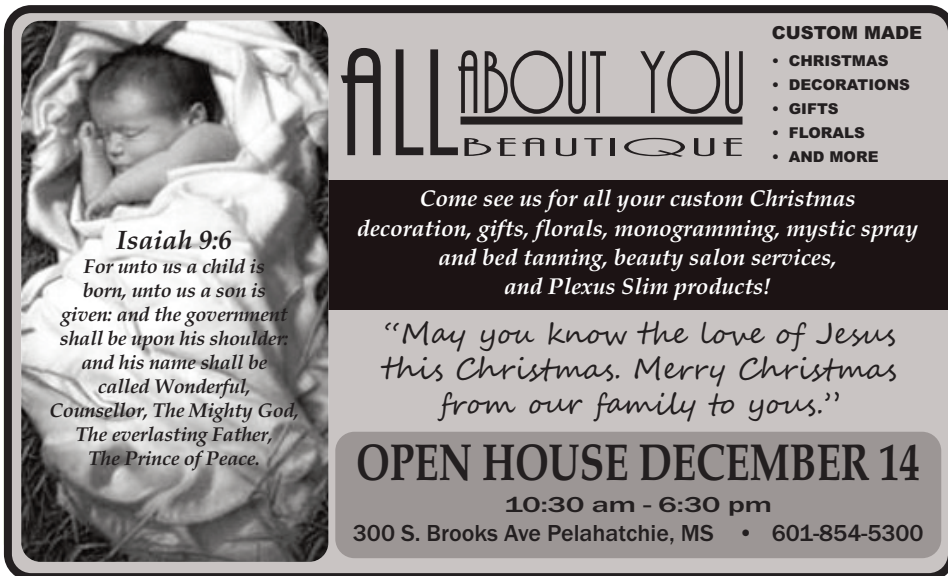


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## Razmataz has open house



The grand opening for the newest gift shop in Pelahatchie, Razmataz, was held on November 17, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors from all over the metro area placed their best items for sale for the folks of Pelahatchie. Everything from jewelry to dip was on display, and the ladies of Razmataz, Michele Carter and Debbie Robinson, send out a special thank you to all the customers who supported their grand opening celebration. For more information about Razmataz, contact them at (601) 854- 7112, or go visit them at 110 S. Brooks Avenue, right across from the Mayor's office. (Photo by Kristen Jones)



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## Fire Department News

**By: Jenny Coward**  
**Pelahatchie Fire Department Captain**

Welcome to winter in the south, where temperatures range from warm to freezing on any given day. Even though wintertime is upon us, the Delta District departments are not taking a winter vacation by any means, because they have responded to 59 emergency calls during the month - a figure combined between three of our district departments. The Pelahatchie fire department responded to 36 calls, the Lake Harbor fire department responded to nine calls, and the Leesburg fire department responded to 14 calls.

The Hot Spot wants to share some holiday safety tips, in hopes that everyone will have a safe and enjoyable holiday. Every holiday season, fires claim the lives of over 400 people and cause millions of dollars in damage.

You can keep your family safe by using nonflammable decorations, not overloading electrical sockets and avoiding the use of lit candles. If you decide to have a live Christmas tree, make sure you buy it fresh, water it daily and keep your tree at least three feet away from fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, wall furnaces and heaters. Never use lit candles to decorate your tree.

When lighting the tree - whether real or artificial - use lights that have an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) mark. This mark means engineers have tested samples for fire and shock hazards. Lights with the green holographic UL mark are for indoor use, and lights with the

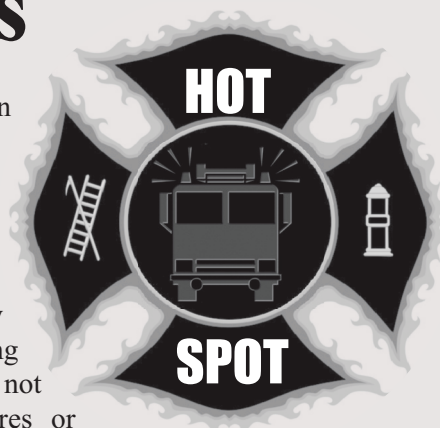
red UL mark can be used either indoors or outdoors. Before stringing the lights on the tree, make sure they are in working order and do not have frayed wires or broken sockets. Do not use more than three standard size sets of lights per extension cord, or you may overload the electrical circuit. Turn off all tree lights when you are away from home or while you are asleep, as the lights could short out and cause a fire.

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they have a higher chance to be deadly. After Christmas, throw away your Christmas tree. Dried out trees are a serious fire hazard and should not be left in the home, garage or leaning against your house. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent fires from occurring. Remember, Christmas lights add cheer and beauty to the season, but if not properly installed and cared for, they can become a danger and even a tragedy.

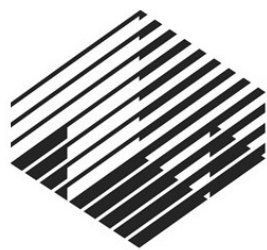
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A BIG safety tip is to wash your hands immediately

— continued on page 3 —







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## The Hot Spot

— continued from page 2 —

after handling your Christmas lights, due to the fact that many of the cords contain lead, and it can rub off on your hands. There will be a manufacturer's warning on your lights if they contain this substance.

During the holiday season, there is nothing like a nice roaring fire dancing in the fireplace. Before using your fireplace, remove all hazards like decorations and ornaments on the mantle that may be hanging too close to the fire. Also, remember your tree needs to be at least three feet away from the fireplace. Check to see if your chimney is clean and that your flue is open. The fireplace should be completely covered with a screen at all times.

Do not burn anything but firewood in your fireplace. Gift wrapping paper and evergreen branches can burn very quickly,

and they can throw off sparks and burning debris, causing a large risk of a house fire or even personal injury. Have a working fire extinguisher in your home, and make sure your family members know how to use it. Also, make the holiday season your regular time to check your smoke detectors.

The Hot Spot wants to take this time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your holiday season be filled with family time, love, laughter, happiness, joy and - most of all - safety. Please remember the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of our Savior and King, Jesus Christ.

So until next year, we wish you safe travel and fellowshiping, and remember help is only three numbers away. 911

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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| DATE      | OPPONENT      | PLACE | TIME |
|-----------|---------------|-------|------|
| DEC. 3RD  | SCOTT CENTRAL | HOME  | 6:00 |
| DEC. 13TH | PUCKETT       | AWAY  | 5:00 |

#### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

| DATE      | OPPONENT        | PLACE | TIME |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|------|
| DEC. 6-8  | MIZE TOURNAMENT | AWAY  | TBD  |
| DEC. 11TH | DURANT          | AWAY  | 6:00 |
| DEC. 14TH | SEBASTAPOL      | HOME  | 5:00 |
| DEC. 17TH | ST. ALOYSIUS    | HOME  | 5:00 |
| DEC. 27TH | MCLAURIN        | AWAY  | 5:00 |



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## Lady Patriots pummel Pillow Academy

BY: KRISTEN JONES

The Lady Patriots faced their closest game of the season on Thursday, November 29, against the Lady Mustangs of Pillow Academy. In the first quarter, the Mustangs took the tip-off down court for a two-point layup, leaving the Patriots instantly at a disadvantage. Throughout the first half, the Patriots stayed nipping at the heels of the Mustangs. With the help of lead scorer and shooting guard Karlie Coghlan, the Patriots were able to stay within ten points of the Mustangs.

Leaving the first half, the Patriots were down by six points with a score of 23- 29. However, at the beginning of the second half, the Patriots were able to gain a foothold against the Mustangs by shaping up their rebounding game. Post players Katelyn Keeton and Kendal Walsh rebounded

the ball several times, creating more plays for the Patriots. Karlie Coghlan brought the shooting power by scoring over 10 points in the second half, while frequently double teamed by the Mustangs.

At the end of the third quarter, the Patriots had a solid lead, with the score board reading 42- 34. They kept a strong defense for the rest of the game, with the Mustangs only scoring five more points in the last quarter; and the Patriots scored a total of twelve points leaving the final score at 54- 47. The win over Pillow Academy left ERA with a winning record of 7-3.

"This season has started off well for us, and I hope we can stay consistent," said Coach Michael McAnally. "I feel that we have the potential to be number one in this conference."



Jordan Graves running down for a screen pass. (Photo by: Kristen Jones)

### EAST RANKIN CALENDAR BASKETBALL

| DATE           | OPPONENT     | PLACE | TIME  |
|----------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| DEC. 4TH       | STARKVILLE   | HOME  | 4:00  |
| DEC. 6TH       | JACKSON PREP | AWAY  | 4:00  |
| DEC. 8TH       | SIMPSON      | HOME  | 11:00 |
| DEC. 11TH      | NEWTON       | HOME  | 4:00  |
| DEC. 15TH      | BROOKHAVEN   | HOME  | 1:00  |
| DEC. 20TH      | PARKLANE     | AWAY  | 2:00  |
| DEC. 27TH-29TH | BROOKLANE    | AWAY  | TBD   |



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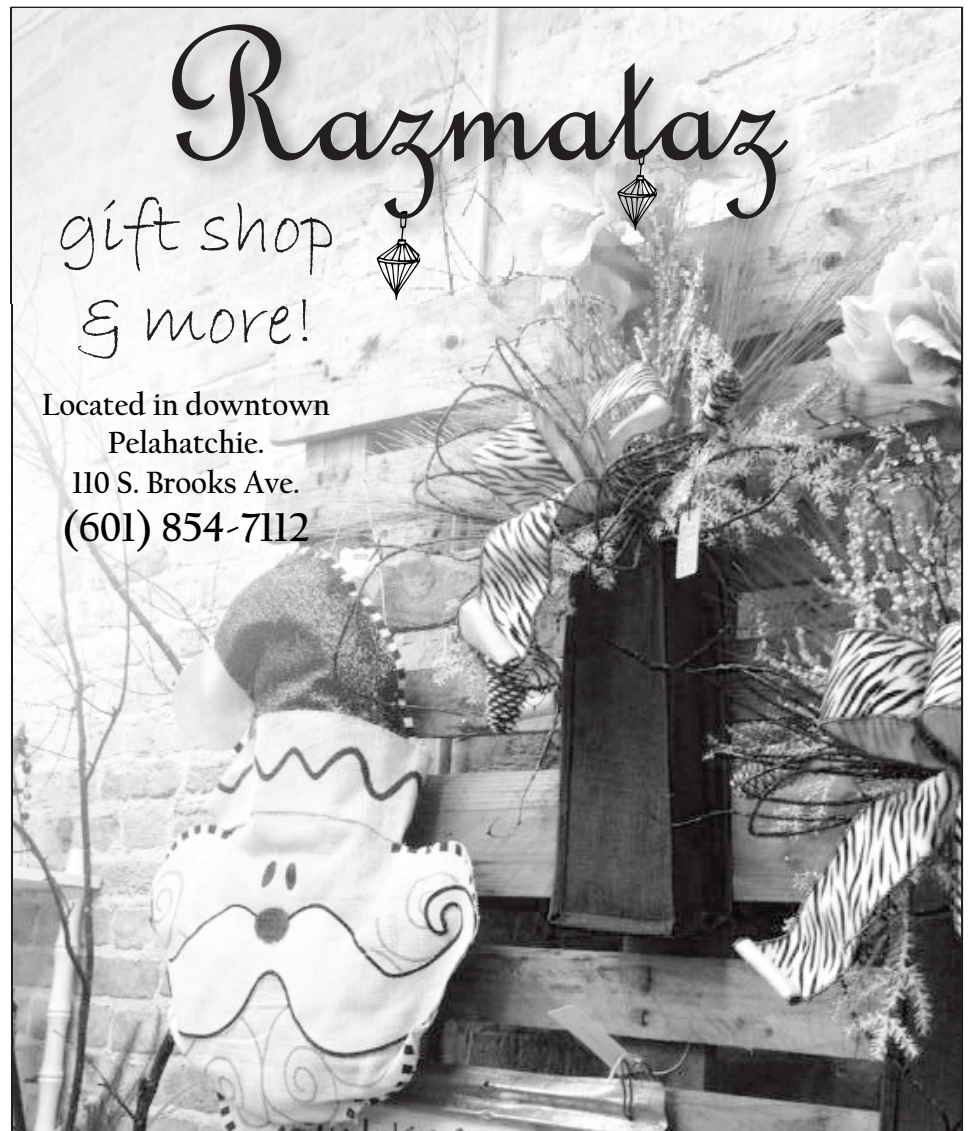
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# 2012 year-end tax planning ideas

BY: SHIRELL BETTS

ACCOUNTANT AT ROSS & BETTS



Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News

one knows, but here are a few areas that taxpayers might want to discuss with their tax professional:

**1. Capital Gains Rates** – Currently, the Long-Term Capital Gain rates are maxed out at 15%. Taxpayers in the 10-15% income tax brackets can take advantage of selling stock that they currently have long-term gains on, paying 0% tax on those. All other individuals can take advantage of the 15% maximum Capital Gains rates that are set to increase in 2013.

**2. Estimated Tax Payments** – If you have a 4th

quarter state estimated tax payment due January 15, you should think about paying it by December 31 to take advantage of the itemized deduction on your 2012 return instead of waiting until 2013 to get the deduction.

**3. Required minimum distributions** – If you have reached age 70 ½ this year, you will be required to begin taking required minimum distributions from your retirement accounts. This extra taxable income can also make more of your Social Security benefits subject to taxation. This causes many people who start required minimum distributions to get caught off guard by a larger than expected tax bill. Others should check into taking more than the required distribution from their retirement accounts to take advantage of the low tax bracket that they are in in the current year.

**4. Charitable Contributions** – If you plan to make any cash charitable contributions, remember you must support these with written evidence showing the name of the charitable organization, the date of the contribution and the amount. For non-cash charitable contributions, written acknowledgment from

the charity must be obtained showing the name of the charity, the location and address of the charity, and a description in sufficient detail of the property contributed.

**5. SEP-IRA Contributions** – Okay, you actually have until April 15 to do this, but you may want to start thinking about it now to make sure you have sufficient resources available to fund the account. The IRA contribution limit in 2012 for an IRA participant under age 50 is less than 100% of a participant's compensation for the year or \$5,000.00 (\$6,000.00 for participants age 50 or older). For self-employed individuals, funding an SEP, a maximum of up to 25% of your business income (or up to \$49,000 max), can be contributed.

These are a few areas that are of importance for your 2012 year-end tax planning. Don't forget to set up your tax planning meeting this year to take advantage of the things you can do before the end of the year.



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# State representative prepares for 2013 Legislative Session

BY: TOM MILES, STATE REPRESENTATIVE



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

The 2013 Legislative Session is just around the corner, and we will be going back into session on January 8. With the redistricting plans being approved by the justice department, I now have the honor of serving as your Representative for the next three years, and I look forward to working with you and our local leaders to help improve our communities. I have been working hard with our local leaders getting ready for the upcoming session, and there are some exciting things that we are working on right now to help benefit Pelahatchie, which I will discuss in later columns.

However, I would like to take some time to bring you up-to-date on current issues and to highlight some things from this past session. Here is a list of bills I authored or coauthored and worked hard to get passed in the 2012 Session:

- HB 960 Blind Person's Literacy Rights is a major piece of legislation for the blind community. This law makes sure that our visually impaired students receive services from certified visually impaired teachers. If the child needs Braille, the child will get Braille; and these students will get their textbooks at the start of the school year like any other student would in a public school.
- HB 1680 Sebastopol Natural Gas District was a local, private bill that I filed to expand a local natural gas district.
- HB 264 Mississippi Veterans Cemetery authorized

the creation of additional cemeteries.

- HB582 provided sales tax exemption on utilities for churches.
- HB681 DUI laws, which included child endangerment provisions
- HB1031 created MS Dyslexia Therapy Scholarships for students with dyslexia.
- HB1032 created MS Dyslexia Education Scholarship programs for teachers and teachers of Braille.
- HB1117 Tax-forfeited lands authorized the Secretary of State to sell certain deteriorating buildings and personal property that have been abandoned.
- HB1382/HB1405 was amended to allow dogs that detect diabetes to be used in schools.
- HC7 Feb 8, 1954, recognized the anniversary of the phrase "Under God" being added to the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance.
- HC30 Constitutional amendment that established the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife.
- Helped with funding for state parks and prevented deep cuts and closures.
  - Restored vital funding to education.
  - Worked to protect PERS for all of our state retirees and state employees.
  - Worked to protect our state employees from being removed from the personnel board.

There were also other important bills that deserve recognition that were passed as well:

- SB2461 gave veterans in MS proof of military service on driver's license and other state identifications.

- SB 707 School Start Date Act of 2013 ruled that public schools will begin on or after the third Monday in August.
- SB2792 Dual Enrollment allowed high school dropouts and potential dropouts to earn skill certifications in community colleges while completing their high school education.
- HB1390 allowed physicians performing operations in abortion clinics to have admitting privileges at a local hospital.
- SB 2398 Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act ensured that state regulations are not overly-burdensome to small businesses.
- HB16 Child Protection Act established reporting requirements for suspected instances of child sexual abuse.

Since being home from session, I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you in your local clubs and organizations, festivals and awards day programs. It has been good to talk to you about the session and to hear about your ideas in what we can do to improve our home. I look forward to visiting and talking with you more. As always, I hope you will continue to call me with your questions and comments. If I can be of service, I am here to represent you and assist you in any way possible.

My family and I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thanks again for the opportunity you have given me and the trust you have placed in me. I'll continue to work hard every day to honor that.

I can be reached by phone at (601) 469-7886 or via email at [tmiles@house.ms.gov](mailto:tmiles@house.ms.gov).

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# Happy Holidays

from

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## Chieftains play Wolves in Rankin County Tournament

By: KRISTEN JONES

Rival tensions rose between the Pelahatchie Chiefs and Puckett Wolves during the Rankin County Tournament on Dec. 1. The Chiefs took the advantage at center court, when player Antonio Moore won the tip-off, giving the Chieftains first possession of the ball. Immediately after tip-off, Chieftain player and star shooter Cameron Moore was fouled and shot the Chieftains' first point of the game. Well into the first two minutes of the game, the rivals battled it out, leaving the score showing Chieftains 1 and Puckett Wolves 0.

The trend was broken when Moore shot a two pointer from the wing, bringing in two more points for the Chieftains. Soon, the Wolves found their way to the basket, which led to a tight-scoring race well into the middle of the first quarter. Then, the Chieftains gained momentum

with frequent fast breaks and quick passes to the basket, leaving the score at the end of the quarter 17-10.

When the second quarter began, the Wolves continued to trail behind as Chieftain players Tony Beemon and Erick Hoard found their way to the basket, which left the Puckett Wolves trailing seventeen points behind by the end of the second quarter.

At the beginning of the second half, the Chieftains continued to play hard, with James Lock and Antonio Moore bringing in more points for the Chieftains, expanding their lead by the end of the third quarter to twenty points, 52-32.

However, in the fourth quarter, the Puckett Wolves gained a foothold with extreme full court press pressure and aggressive man-to-man coverage. The Chieftains began to lose their lead with the Wolves



Sophomore Erick Hoard throwing the ball into play for the Chiefs during the second quarter. (Photo by: Kristen Jones)

raising the intensity, and the Wolves began to find themselves scoring most of their points at the free throw line. The Wolves quickly closed the gap, and the Chieftains walked into overtime with a tied score of 61-61.

Despite the Chieftains' best

efforts, the Wolves played hard, and the Chieftains could not withstand the defensive coverage that the Wolves applied. At the end of the game, the Chieftains walked away with the scoreboard reading Puckett Wolves 75 and Pelahatchie Chiefs 66.



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## Business Spotlight: Ross & Betts

BY: KRISTEN JONES

As the year comes to an end, it is important to remember to do those last minute little things like getting the Christmas tree out of storage, wrapping the presents and preparing your paperwork for next year's taxes. Tax season is right around the corner, and everyone can benefit from working with a company who can take care of all your tax needs quickly and efficiently. Luckily for you, help is located right downtown with Pelahatchie's very own Ross & Betts.

One of the partners of Ross & Betts is Pelahatchie's mayor, Knox Ross, Jr. Ross received his Bachelor's degree at Mississippi State University in 1988 and his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Alabama in 1990. Before he was writing returns for the good folks of Pelahatchie, he worked for a level four accounting firm called Ernst & Young.

"Ernst & Young was about the

best experience you can get, because you get to work with public companies and go all over the country," said Ross. "You get to do so many different things and see so many people."

After his time with Ernst & Young, Ross went on to work for Paul Breazeale and Brent Saunders in Jackson, Mississippi.

"I had the opportunity to work with some highly intelligent people who taught me a great deal of what I know today," said Ross.

In 1997, Ross decided to make the transition into managing his own accounting business and moved into the building where his business still resides. At

the time, the building was split in half, with his business being on one side and a video store occupying the other.



Ross and Betts staff (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)

Gradually, the accounting business grew to the point that it occupied the whole building, and Ross needed help to maintain his clientele, so Ross offered long-time acquaintance, Shirrel Betts, the opportunity to become partners in the business. Betts agreed, and in 2011, Betts officially partnered with Ross.

"Shirrel was the person for the job," said Ross. "She is respectful, and she communicates well with

people."

Betts graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor's in Accounting in 1997 and a Master's in Taxation in 1998. After she passed the exam to be a Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA), she went on to work for one of the largest accounting firms in the United States, Arthur Anderson. After Arthur Anderson closed their tax department in Jackson, Mississippi, where Betts worked, she decided to work a little closer to home and has been an integral part of Ross & Betts for two years.

Ross & Betts comes with a highly qualified staff that offers a variety of financial planning services.

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Bookkeeping and tax returns are — continued on page 13 —

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

BY: REV. RON MCDUGALD  
LEAD PASTOR OF SHILOH UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

We all have that one favorite Christmas gift. It is that one gift you wanted so badly that you asked Santa for it over and over again. Mine was a ticket to a college basketball game. I had never been to a college game, and my favorite team ("obsessed with" would be a better term) was playing a game after Christmas against a rival team close to where my Dad had just gotten his new job. My Dad had even hinted at it and asked if I would like to go. Would I like to go? It was all I thought about for 40 days and nights, which is a long time for a 14-year-old. Christmas morning came, and as much as I was (and still am) anxious and excited about what the first light will reveal, it was multiplied on that morning.

In fact, I had not slept at all. My tiny closet of a bedroom was next to the living room, where I listened as the "helpers" whispered about placement of all of the gifts for my three younger siblings, who were fast asleep at the far end of the house. It was a long night filled with visions of Carolina blue jerseys racing up and down the court and scoring

the winning basket at the buzzer. Long before the first hint of dawn, with stars still blinking out my bedroom window and those red, green and orange lights illuminating the scene under the Christmas tree, I slipped out of bed and crept to that tree and began the search.

There was a bike for my sister, a "Major Matt Mason" for my brother, and a doll with a carriage, no less, for my little sister. An assortment of lesser games, toys, clothes and wrapped presents were strategically placed so that all four of us would have a place to open our gifts and play. In my small pile, there lay a sweater, a new radio (it even had a tape recorder with it) and gifts from my grandparents - but no tickets! I looked under and over the tree and even amongst my siblings' stashes. They just weren't there. While going back to bed, trying to make the best of what was turning into the "worst Christmas of my young life," my little brother woke up, and my sisters' noises grew louder. I had to put on my happy face. My sister was always the "nuts, fruits and candy" member of our tribe and was the first to reach for the stockings hung over our unused fireplace. Out of the stocking spilled an apple, Brazilian nuts, an orange, "kisses" wrapped in silver foil and some tissue paper with

cardboard in it. Pulling back the tissue, I found the tickets... North Carolina vs. Wake Forest!



My Dad later told me that he had had the tickets since his first day on the job back in November. You see, my Dad had gotten the job at Wake Forest because he had lost his business, and the tickets were the first thing he bought out of his first paycheck after being unemployed for weeks. There is another Christmas story about a gift. This one we tell every year! The first Christmas gift involved great love and personal sacrifice. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." The first gift was found "wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger," not where those who were looking for it could easily find it, but only after having been told where to look (like handing you a stocking). So, when Christmas Day arrives, know this: someone has been preparing to give you the most precious and the most wonderful gift of your life, and all you have to do is unwrap it. By the way, I went to the game with my Dad, and Carolina won at the buzzer.

Be sure to check your stocking!

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## The Chieftain Community Club prepares for Resource Fair

**BY: PATTY DAWSON**  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER**

The school year seems to be flying by; and before you know it, we will be closing the doors for summer! While school is still going strong, please remember the Chieftain Community Club (CCC) and know it is never too late to get involved with our group. Strong parent involvement in the school makes for healthier students and a better school! The CCC has several things on the agenda for the next few months. Our next meeting will be held on January 10, 2013. We will be voting on by-laws and making the final preparations for our Back to School Open House Event.

The CCC will be hosting its 2nd Annual Parent/Student Information and Resource Fair on Thursday,

January 17, 2013. It will be held in the PAC cafeteria from 6-7:30 p.m. We are hoping to have a great turnout, and we want everyone to reap the benefits of having a better knowledge of the businesses and people who help our community.

There will be food, prizes and lots of information, and each student who has a parent in attendance will earn a 30-minute break.

If you would like to have your business in this wonderful event or know of someone who would be interested, please contact me at dawsonp75@gmail.com, and I will send you a vendor application. Please remember, there is no fee or charge to be a part of this event, although a small door prize is recommended. We encourage everyone from Avon Representatives to zoologists to be there.

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## Food Confessions

**BY: PATTY DAWSON**

I am learning that many confessions lie within a kitchen. If only kitchen walls could talk!! You all know that you are guilty of substituting ingredients, hoping no one will notice because you didn't have the real thing. Well, I am here to tell you that recipes mean nothing in my kitchen. I am bound to turn every recipe that touches my fingers into Recipattys, which leads me to wonder that, if you read my article, will you recipe vamp it, as well? If you do, let me know if it turns out better. I love a new twist. A thought to ponder indeed!

Back when I was broke as a joke, we lived off of Hamburger Helper. (Well, I still am broke, but I cook better and cheaper

meals, thanks to being frugal and coupon-savvy.) Ninety-nine-cent-per-pound ground beef and \$0.99 boxes of Hamburger Helper made for a cheap week of meals. Of course, I just couldn't mix according to directions; and so, I added lots of love to it to make it my own.

Today, I rarely invest in that box, because those broke days ruined the no-fuss and no-hassle of that amazing box! I still love coming up with my own creations. It is part of what makes me a cook. My kids always tell me that I should open my own place. However, I wonder if that was to happen would I lose a little of my passion for cooking (now that is a confession right there)! Cooking, to me, means love. I

never cook because I have to. When my family sits down for dinner every night, they know that I put my heart and soul into that meal. It makes me feel special.

When someone asks for a Recipe, the awful truth is I have a hard time giving them the whole scoop. Did I add this much or that much? You know what I mean.

Taking the time to write this article has made me think hard about the things I have cooked and how I have failed to write my thoughts and creations on paper. I will have to work on that. One of my children's favorites is this super simple recipe - my kids call it "That Junk." There is nothing like hearing my daughter say, "Mom, will you cook 'That Junk?'"

**THAT JUNK INGREDIENTS:**  
1 POUND OF HAMBURGER  
1 CHOPPED ONION  
2 REGULAR CANS OR ONE LARGE CAN OF CUT GREEN BEANS (DRAINED)  
1 LARGE CAN OF CAMPBELL'S TOMATO SOUP  
1 PACKAGE OF TACO SEASONING

**PREPARATION:**  
COOK THE HAMBURGER WITH THE ONIONS UNTIL BROWN (SEASON WITH GARLIC SALT IF DESIRED). DRAIN THE HAMBURGER AND PUT IT BACK IN THE SKILLET. ADD GREEN BEANS, TOMATO SOUP AND TACO SEASONING. MIX WELL AND LET SIMMER FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES. SERVE OVER HOMEMADE MASHED POTATOES OR INSTANT POTATOES.



## PAC coach inspired by basketball history

BY: KRISTEN JONES

Hanging in the back of the Pelahatchie Attendance Center (PAC) gym are white and red banners of past PAC teams that were fortunate enough to compete in state championships. The 1960s and 1983 basketball teams were the only Chief-  
tain teams to receive this honor; and, thanks to head coach Avery Nobles, the history of these teams is being preserved.

"I have always been interested in basketball history," said Nobles. "I just find it fascinating."

Nobles researched the teams that were part of past state championships by looking through state championship books that are available at the Mississippi Coliseum. After discovering the teams that made the cut, he, along with assistant coach Jason Smith and fellow teacher Sue Smith, went to work creating the banners that now hang in the gym.

"Honestly, I wanted to do this



The latest banner that will hang at the front of the gym. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

for our students," said Nobles. "I think it is important that they see these banners and know that they can do something like that, too."

The banners from the 1960s are already on display; and soon the 1983 banner, which will show the names of the players, along with a special thanks to Coach Billy Grey, will be on display at the front of the PAC gym.

"I want the students to see the names of the players of the 1983 team because they will see people that they know who played, and I hope it inspires them," said Nobles.

For more information about the banners or the PAC basketball schedule, contact Coach Avery Nobles at (601) 854- 8135.

## Business Spotlight

— continued from page 10 —

their specialty; however, they also provide auditing services. They work with individuals as well as businesses and offer consulting services in a number of financial areas.

"The most important thing we want people to know is that we can handle their financial and tax needs with a small-town atmosphere," said Betts. "We care about our clients,

and we want to help them in whatever way we can."

Ross & Betts invites everyone to attend their open house on December 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The staff will be offering free financial advice and refreshments and will be happy to help answer any tax questions. For more information, contact them at (601) 854-7007.



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## PAC names the Treble Song members



PAC's participants of the Treble Song Honor Choir for the 2012- 2013 school year. From left to right: Anna Creel, Leah Davis and Coleigh Cook. (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)



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# Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame plans to remodel

**BY: RICK CLEVELAND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME**



*Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News*

Hello, Mississippians. A sincere thank-you goes out to this newspaper's editor for allowing me to visit with you. It's been more than half a year since I made a living writing about your sports heroes, and I'd like to tell you a little about my new job.

For more than four decades, I wrote sports stories and columns about Mississippi's sports heroes, who also happen to be some of the planet's most marvelous athletes. As executive director of your Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and

Museum, my job is to preserve those sports legends for this and future generations.

The Magnolia State has a sports legacy second to none. Let's put it this way: during my sports writing career, I covered pro football's all-time leading scorer and receiver Jerry Rice, pro football's all-time leading passer Brett Favre, pro football's second all-time leading rusher Walter Payton and the patriarch of America's first family of football, Archie Manning. All of them hail from small-town Mississippi, and that's just one sport. Mississippians have excelled at many others.

If you're like me, you read all the time about Mississippi being the poorest, least-educated and fattest state. At the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Jackson, we display what Mississippians do better than anyone.

I want to pick up where my

good friend, the late Michael Rubenstein, left off, and I have quite a daunting task. On July 4, 1996, the museum opened a \$4 million treasure chest of Mississippi's sports history, and it was billed as Mississippi's first museum for the twenty-first century.

We are operating on 1996 software with 1996 audio visual equipment. We are about to change that. Plans are in the works to refurbish and even reinvent some of our exhibits. My job is to raise the money to pay for the work that must be done. Thanks to the hard work of Rubenstein and his splendid staff I inherited, we have money on hand to address several — but not all — needs.

You should know that since it opened 16 years ago, Mississippi's sports museum has received no funding from any level of government. We are self-supporting. We pay our own way through the events we put on ourselves.

Currently, we are refurbishing our Olympic Room, our entrance area and developing new football exhibits. The old interactive kiosks soon will be replaced with new software and larger high-definition screens. We have a new and much improved website — [msfame.com](http://msfame.com) — where you can learn about the museum and Mississippi's sports history.

How can you help? I'm glad you asked. Individual annual memberships are available at \$25. Family memberships are \$100. And/or you can just come see us. We're a bargain. Admission is \$5 and \$3.50 for students and seniors. Group rates are available. Our Trustmark Conference room and the museum itself are available for rental. We host a variety of events like family reunions, banquets, birthday parties, business seminars and even weddings. Come see us or visit us at [msfame.com](http://msfame.com) to learn more.

"Maybe Christmas,  
the Grinch thought,  
doesn't come from a store."

—Dr. Seuss



**Merry Christmas from  
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**Candlelight Christmas Service**  
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## Pelahatchie Police Department sponsors toy drive

BY: KRISTEN JONES

The Pelahatchie Police Department is holding their 13th annual Christmas toy drive. Police chief Glenda Shoemaker started the toy drive in the late 1990's, and it has been a staple charity event for the department ever since. Families in the Pelahatchie area who are not able to afford Christmas gifts for their children can come to the police station, and the department will assist them in obtaining presents for their children.

"So many people have fallen on hard times, and they come to us for help," said Chief Shoe-

maker. "Over the years, we have been able to help so many families who really need to be helped."

Through monetary and toy donations, the department is able to meet the needs of many locals. The police department is currently accepting toys and will continue to accept donations until Christmas Eve. If you would like to donate, you can drop off your donations at the Pelahatchie Police Department. For more information about the Christmas toy drive, contact the Pelahatchie Police Department at (601) 854-5223.

## PAC wins playoff game



Pelahatchie players and Cathedral players getting ready for the next play. The Chieftains won against Cathedral by a score of 51-40, which gave them passage to the next round of playoffs. (Photo by Rachel Boyer)

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