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P.O. Box 771
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Issue 4

April 2013

Volume 2

Local girl turned artist

BY: KRISTEN JONES

Pelahatchie Attendance Center graduate and Mississippi College student are just a few words to describe Joyce Bledsoe. However, the term she chooses to identify herself with is that of artist.

"The first time I discovered I enjoyed art was when I was a junior in high school. I was going through a difficult time, and I picked up a pencil and started drawing," said Bledsoe. "I felt relieved, and the stress just melted away. I felt I had found something that I could do in my spare time to take the pain away."

Since that time, Bledsoe has turned her spare time passion into a solidified course in life. After graduating from Pelahatchie Attendance Center, Bledsoe went on to attend colleges such as Jackson State University and has now found her home at Mississippi College, where she is majoring in Art Education.

"Before I claimed myself as an art major, I did not have anyone to help me develop my talent. I thought of it as a skill, because I had to research and read about how to draw

things," said Bledsoe. "The teachers I have now in college are helping me to become a more skillful artist."

As an art major, Bledsoe has worked with several different media forms; however, she specifically enjoys working with graphite, acrylic and printmaking. She prefers creating pieces of musical instruments. After graduating college, Bledsoe plans to become a teacher of the visual arts.

"Some things I hope to accomplish through my art are to one day inspire a child, connect with a stranger and save a life. Art saved me," said Bledsoe. "Hopefully, my art can help someone else."



Joyce Bledsoe showing some of her artwork. Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News

Four-legged friend hatches in Pelahatchie

BY: KRISTEN JONES

In the back of Pelahatchie resident Alice Hall's house, there are quite a few farm animals, such as rabbits, cows and a four-legged baby chicken. Hall's daughter was shocked when her feathery friend hatched out with two extra legs attached.

Although the thought of a four-legged chicken sounds quite unbelievable, similar stories to that of Hall's have surfaced. The four-legged chicks have proper placement of two of the legs, while the other appendages are attached on the sides of the chick.

"We think that the chick was

"We think that the chick was originally meant to be two chicks, but they never completely separated," said Hall. "They stayed yoked together."



Alice Hall holding Lucy the four legged chicken. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

originally meant to be two chicks, but they never completely separated," said Hall. "They stayed yoked together."

Despite best efforts to help keep Lucy, the four-legged chick, healthy, the chick died suddenly on Thursday, March 28. Even though her stay was short, she certainly made an impact on the Pelahatchie community.

Jerry Norwood seeks re-election as Alderman-at-Large

BY: JERRY NORWOOD
ALDERMAN OF PELAHATCHIE



Special to The Pelahatchie News

I, Jerry Norwood, announce my candidacy for re-election of Alderman-at-Large for the town of Pelahatchie. Thirty-seven years ago

my wife and I chose Pelahatchie as the place to purchase our first home and as the place to raise our future family. We feel so blessed to be a part of this great town, and the small-town atmosphere proved a wonderful place to raise our two children.

It is my belief that my 16 years' experience as an alderman, along with my 35 years' business experience as Inside Sales Manager of O'Neal Steel, puts me in the position to help Pelahatchie continue to grow. I realize the importance of good stewardship and accountability concerning the town's business.

We started many projects during the last eight years, including the library, the museum, WiFi Internet Connection in the park and downtown area, the Community Center, remodeling the second floor of City Hall, cleaning up the Wood Yard and the beautification of the downtown area. We have several

projects pending that I would like to see completed during the next four years; these include a bike trail from downtown to Pelahatchie Lake, Brooks Street overlay and Milltown Park.

As Alderman-at-Large, I will serve as your representative and willingly address any questions or concerns that you may have. My main goal as Alderman has been and will continue to be to make Pelahatchie a place we can all be proud to call home.



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Photo by Rachel Boyer

BY: KNOX ROSS, JR., MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF PELAHATCHIE

As we wave a goodbye to a stubborn winter, spring rains and storms have come and seem not to want to go away. Our baseball teams are turning in competitive seasons thus far in between the frequent rains. Make sure to stop by and enjoy an afternoon of high school baseball. Our teams need your support.

We have received more street signs, and you will begin to see more of them go up around town. We are trying to make progress in all parts of town by buying a few signs every few months. So, we will be making steady progress throughout the year.

Our sales tax revenues continue to outpace last year. This helps us improve our town. So, please, continue to give our local merchants a chance to earn your business, because they contribute to our town in so many different ways.

A great deal has been happen-

ing behind the scenes on ongoing projects. My hope is that by the time you read this, you will see some actual work being done. A summary of progress follows:

Milltown Park: We received bids and are working with the low bidder to get this project at an affordable rate. We are very close to accepting the bid. I am excited about getting this project started. It will be a great addition to our town and a great boost to the area.

South side sewer project: These plans have been submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality for final approval. After that, we will be able to bid the project out and move forward. We will also be replacing old water lines in the Moore Street area over the next few weeks. Please be careful of construction in this area.

Brooks Avenue overlay: We have submitted additional paperwork to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, and hopefully, this project is very near approval to take to bid.

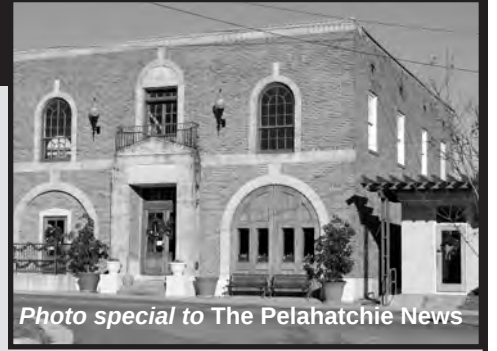
Brooks Avenue Bike Trail: We are awaiting written approval to

begin obtaining right of way for this project.

We have many other small projects ongoing around town such as continuing to clean up the Town Creek near Pelahatchie High School as soon as the spring rains have subsided.

A great event that is coming Saturday, May 4, is the Natchez Trace Century Race. This bicycle race has for many years been sponsored by the City of Ridgeland and has taken place on the Natchez Trace. This year, the route has been changed, and significant portions of this race will come through Pelahatchie. We will be staffing a rest stop at Muscadine Park that day for approximately 500 participants. If you would like to help with this fun event, please let City Hall know. This will be a great event to showcase our town. A special thank you goes out to Mayor Gene McGee of Ridgeland for including us in this event.

We have installed a recycling bin at the Town Barn to receive plastic, cardboard, paper and aluminum recyclables. Please go by and place these items in the recycling bin, and



in return, they will be sent off for recycling. We also have an area for old tires, paint, oil and general rubbish. Please take advantage of this service.

Also, take advantage of our Town Facebook page and *The Pelahatchie News* Facebook page. We try to share information and let you know what our local businesses are offering. It is a great way to stay informed.

Do not forget to check out the advertisers in this paper. They are the reason we have such an outstanding paper, and I appreciate their confidence in our town.

Thanks to each of you for your support of our town. I am proud of Pelahatchie and its people and the work we are all doing to make our town great. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor. It is a great privilege.



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

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 Family Dinner
7:00 - Children's Mission Activities • Student Worship
Ladies Bible Study • Couples Support Group
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Fire Department News

**BY: JENNY COWARD,
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF**

March winds, freezing temperatures and a historic hail storm wrapped up the month of March. These conditions kept the Delta District busy as normal with a total of 140 calls being responded to between five of the Delta District departments. Pelahatchie responded to 50 calls. Lake Harbor responded to 26 calls. Leesburg responded to 24 calls. Walters responded to 12 calls, and Langford responded to 28 calls.

On March 2, some members of the Delta District attended an Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) refresher course held at Leesburg Fire Station, and also in attendance were three EMT's for continuous education hours. Michael Arrender of American Medical Response

(AMR) was the course instructor and refreshed the members on skills such as CPR, splinting, oxygen administration, airway obstruction, patient assessment and patient transportation, just to name a few techniques performed by EMR's and EMT's while responding to medical calls and motor vehicle accidents. Everyone who attended learned a lot and had fun while doing so. A special thanks goes out to Michael.

The Delta District cannot stress enough that as spring time arrives and yard work begins, please BURN SMART. Never leave your debris fire unattended. Keep a garden hose charged and ready at all times, and always make sure the wind conditions are favorable for burning. This time of the year keeps fire departments busy responding to grass fires

that get out of hand from a simple debris fire that was left unattended or winds got hold of. Thousands of dollars in damage each year are caused by out of control grass fires. If you are planning on burning a very large debris fire that can burn for hours to days, you will need to contact your local fire department or Rankin County dispatch and advise them of this controlled burn. This will help should 911 calls come in about this fire. The caller can be advised that it is a controlled burn instead of a non-controlled burn. Another benefit in contacting your local fire department or Rankin County dispatch is they can advise you of any burn bans or any other conditions that could result in large fines if caught burning during these conditions and restrictions.



On Saturday, April 6, Walters Volunteer Fire Department will be holding their famous fish fry at 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at their station on Walters Road. The plates will have fish, fries, hand-made hushpuppies and cole slaw. Regular plates will be \$8, and large plates are \$10. If you have not had the privilege of tasting some of Walters Fire Department's fine fish...you do not know what your mouth has been missing. So give your taste buds a treat while

— continued on page 4 —



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Pelahatchie Attendance Center honors students



Above: Students of the Month, pictured from left to right: Tyra Jones, Jordan Bishop, Kayla Tadlock, Gail Dover, Gracie Smith and Daniel Stewart (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News.)



Right: Citizenship Award Recipients, pictured from left to right: Kent Watson and Jessica Moulder (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News.)

The Hot Spot

— continued from page 3 —

supporting a good cause.

On March 26, Pelahatchie Fire Department said good bye to their Assistant Chief Dennis (Papa D) Jackson's wife Dianne (Mama D) Jackson. Even though her health kept her away for many functions the department had, she was always there in spirit and with words of encouragement. She loved the fire department and was an honorary

Firefighters Auxiliary member. She will be greatly missed, and each member knows her spirit will always be among each of them in everything the department does. We will miss you Mama D.

So until next article, remember burn smart, stay safe, stay healthy and always remember help is only three numbers away 9-1-1.

EAST RANKIN ACADEMY APRIL BASEBALL SCHEDULE

2ND	JACKSON VICTORS	5 P.M. [B-TEAM]	7 P.M. [V]	HOME
5TH	MRA	5 P.M. [B-TEAM]	7 P.M. [V]	HOME
9TH	COPIAH	5 P.M. [B-TEAM]	7 P.M. [V]	AWAY
11TH	COPIAH	5 P.M. [V] [DH]		HOME
16TH	HILLCREST	5 P.M. [B-TEAM]	7 P.M. [V]	HOME
18TH	HILLCREST	5 P.M. [V] [DH]		AWAY
23RD	PARKLANE	4:30 P.M. [B-TEAM]	6:30 [V]	HOME
25TH	PARKLANE	4:30 P.M. [V] [DH]		AWAY

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Pelahatchie Public Library prepares for National Library Week

SPECIAL TO *THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS*

The week of April 15 is National Library Week, and the Pelahatchie Public Library has several events planned. All week, Friends of the Pelahatchie Public Library will be sponsoring a book sale, and in an effort to prepare for summer reading, the book sale inventory must be reduced. Therefore, during National Library Week, there will be no set price on book sale items. Customers can come in, select what they would like, and they can donate any amount of money to the Friends of the Pelahatchie Public Library.

Events for National Library Week will include a seminar titled "Know the Online Enemy – Understanding Internet Security." The seminar will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will be presented by Mike Anderson, Regional Broadband Coordinator for Mississippi State University. He will be discussing information about how to stay protected against internet threats.



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News



Also, on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m., the Pelahatchie Public Library will sponsor a Family Movie Night, and the movie will be an Oscar-winning movie from 2012. Call for the Pelahatchie Public Library for more details at (601) 854-8764.

Pelahatchie Attendance Center 2013 Baseball Team



The 2013 Pelahatchie Chieftain Baseball Team before practicing for the game on Friday, March 22. (Photo by: Rachael Boyer.)

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Jerry
NORWOOD
Alderman-at-Large

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

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- Member of Pelahatchie Baptist Church
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Town of Pelahatchie's Easter Egg Hunt 2013



On March 23, the Town of Pelahatchie held their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Muscadine Park. The event kicked off at 10 a.m., and ages 1-8 participated. Refreshments and prizes were available at the end of the festivities. (Photos by: Kristen Jones)

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Business Spotlight: Candy's Florist

BY: KRISTEN JONES

At the age of 18, Candace Holmes found something most people spend years looking for... her passion. Holmes kick-started her career in the flower industry working part-time at a flower shop in Jackson, Miss., called Greenbrook Flowers. She started out working as a receptionist at the shop; however, over time, she was called on to work on small orders of arrangements. While working these orders, Holmes discovered she had a talent for flower design and creation.

After two years of employment with Greenbrook Florist, Holmes decided she needed a change of pace and went to work with Robin Shivers at Robin's Florist in Pelahatchie, Miss. The local flower shop went through three changes in location from the original Knight's Florist location near Rhodes and Robby Drugs to the hardware store located across from East Rankin Academy on Hwy 43 until Robin's Florist finally found its home on Hwy 80. After a seven-year streak of employment, Holmes was faced with a unique opportunity. She had the ability to take over the business.

On Jan. 1 of this year, Robin's Florist officially became Candy's



Holmes working on prom arrangements and corsages. (Photos are by Kristen Jones.)

Florist, and business has thrived ever since.

"We really prayed about it before we decided to buy the business," said Holmes. "It truly must have been in God's plan for us to have this opportunity."

Since opening, Holmes has found herself quite busy creating flower designs and delivering in several communities in the local area; however, she could not do it all with-



out the help of her family.

"My family has been a big help," said Holmes. "My husband helps me make deliveries after he gets off work, and my mom comes in and helps me on Fridays."

With prom season in full swing and Mother's Day right around the corner, Candy's Florist will be lucky to catch a break. Prom corsage pricing starts at \$22.95 and keepsake bracelet pricing starts at \$24.95. For the young

men who need boutonnieres, the pricing begins at \$7 with whatever color rose they prefer, and Candy's will match the ribbon to the colors worn by their date.

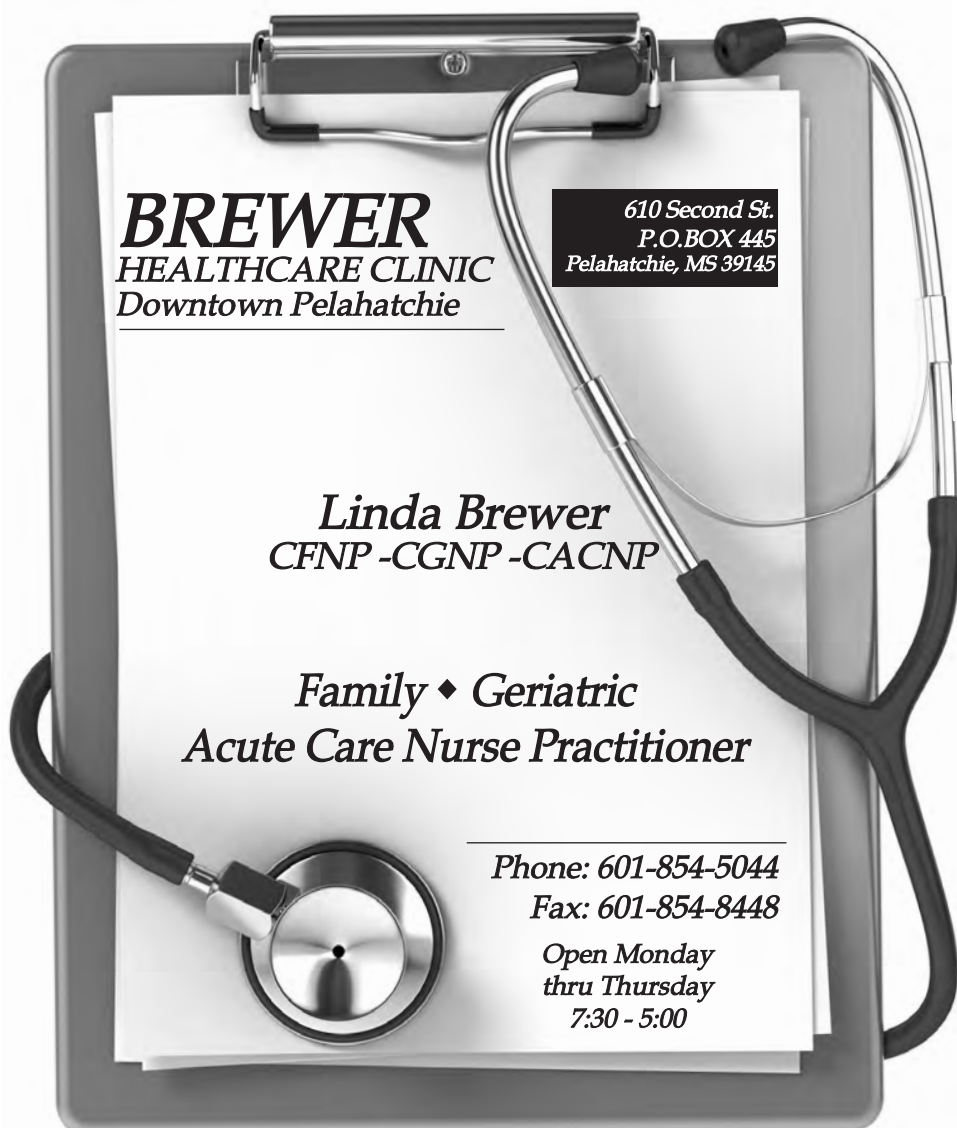
For Mother's Day, Candy's will be making a variety of mixed arrangements and a great deal of tulip arrangements, which will start at \$25.

"We will have lots of tulips," said Holmes. "We all know mothers like their tulips."

A special Mother's Bouquet will be available to customers, and it will consist of a few different kinds of tulips mixed with other bright colorful flowers.

Candy's provides a wide variety of other arrangements outside of the seasonal flower designs. For loved ones who have passed on, Candy's offers saddles for tombstones, stands for funerals and green plants. For birthdays, goody bags and mixed flower arrangements are the way to go. Other items that are great buys at Candy's are their purses, jewelry, candles and jams. For those looking for a gift for that special someone, Candy's Florist is an all-around shop for special items and flowers for a great price.

For more information about Candy's Florist, call (601) 854-5154.



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Legislature update

BY: TOM MILES
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



(Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

The Mississippi Legislature is coming to a close, and we are working hard to get the bills out that we have been working on all year. In my next month's column, I will give you a final summary of what passed and what did not. We have had a busy March and are scheduled to end the session by April 6. I hope you and all of your family had a very Happy Easter and got time to spend with your family and loved ones.

Here is a list of some of the bills that the Governor has already signed into law:

- Prayer is back in public schools. I was proud to be invited to the bill signing for Senate Bill 2633, the "Mississippi Student Religious Liberties Act of 2013." I have sponsored similar measures for the first two years of my service, and the Governor invited me to attend.

In Mississippi, we believe in protecting the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. This bill will enable our students in public schools to offer religious expressions before football games and other prescribed events. Additionally, no child will be punished for wearing a religious symbol. The idea of returning prayer to public school has been with us a very long time, and we have now addressed the issue. I am proud to be a sponsor for this legislation.

- Senate Bill 2806 will bring 1,600 jobs into Rankin County as part of the tourist/retail destination center at Bloomfield in Pearl. I voted for and strongly supported this effort to create a unique opportunity for economic development along the I-20 corridor. I believe it will have a positive impact on growth opportunities for everyone, including the Town of Pelahatchie, Rankin County and Central Mississippi.
- Two laws to protect the rights of gun owners have been signed into law. House Bill 2 clarifies the laws regarding concealed carrying. Before, some people were inadvertently breaking the concealed carry law when they had their guns in holsters. House Bill 485 protects the personal information of people who have registered to lawfully carry concealed weapons. While this measure has created an outcry among some open records advocates, I believe that an individual's personal information should not be a part of the public record. Both of these measures enjoyed broad support in the legislature. As a life member of the NRA, I am proud we protected our second amendment rights.
- The House approved Senate Bill 2048, which will allow crossbow and bow and arrow hunting during any open season on deer. Many of our hunters enjoy the challenge and effort of hunting game without the "modern convenience" of guns. I think it is important that this aspect of hunting should not be confined to brief seasons with special restrictions. Hunting is an important part of Mississippi culture, and I am glad we were able to offer this opportunity to so many.
- We passed a measure to protect the health and safety of women when

we voted to approve Senate Bill 2795, 76-33. This bill prohibits remote-controlled chemical abortions in Mississippi. In other states, these types of abortions are being performed with physicians in other facilities.

- House Bill 269 provides an increased death benefit for our first responders who are killed in the line of duty. It is the least we can do for the families of these brave Mississippians who risk their lives to serve us every day.
- House Bill 1015 will allow for a driver's license station in every county to be open at least one day per week. Many of our residents have had to drive a long way to renew their licenses when the local substations were closed.
- SB 2133, Erin's Law, was created to help protect our children from sexual abuse. This is a very important issue, especially when statistics show one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused during their childhood. Every day, it seems like you turn on the news, and it is a new case where someone has stolen the innocence of an — continued on page 11 —

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**PASTOR'S
CORNER**
**BY: LESLIE TRIGG
EAST RANKIN ACADEMY CHAPLAIN**

Psalm 14:1 says "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Every time I read this verse, think about it or even preach it, I hear the voice of Mr. T saying "I pity the fool!" Well, I thank the Lord we live in Pelahatchie. I guess Mr. T will not find any fools to pity. I have never heard anyone in Fred's, Fairway, Ward's or even at the gas pump proclaiming "There is no God!" with his fist shaking toward the heavens; however, I still cannot get Mr. T's voice out of my head.

When I pause and look back at Psalm 14:1, it says "in his heart." So, I have to stop and look past the words we say and look at the way we choose to live our lives, especially myself. When I am honest about my life, sometimes, I act like a fool. Sometimes the way we live our lives says, "There is no God." How many times in my life and yours, too, do we not trust the Lord to work out His plans in His own timing? We either rush head on or drag our feet in worry about the matter and totally miss God. How about the times when we think we know better than the Creator? Our ways and methods would be so much more effective, but we still fail. What about when one of us holds on to bitterness and lack of forgiveness? We watch our joy and relationships dry up

I pity the fool

and die. Mr. T's voice grows louder and louder in my mind.

How can we stop being a fool? How can we start living like "There is a God!"? Let us start with Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." This is saying that we

Proverbs 1:7
"The fear of the LORD
is the beginning of
knowledge." We need to
start trusting the Lord.

should not cower in fear. We need to realize that the Lord is God, and we are not Him. Then, we need to start living by Proverbs 2:5-6. We start trusting the Lord to know what is best for us and wait on His timing. We must admit we do not know everything but choose to follow the truths He has laid out for us in His Word. We must forgive as we have been forgiven to find freedom from bitterness.

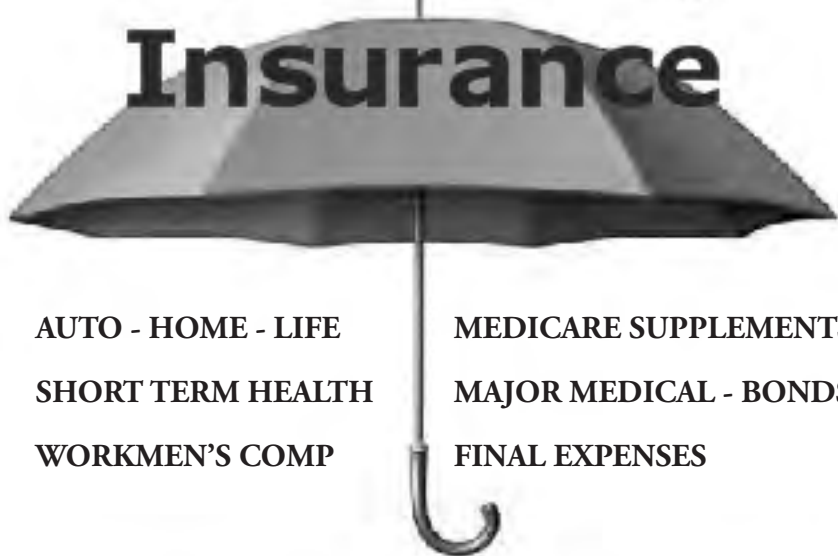
As we acknowledge the Lord daily with our lives, Mr. T's voice will grow quieter and quieter. All the while, the world around us will know that there is a God!



Photo special to the Pelahatchie News



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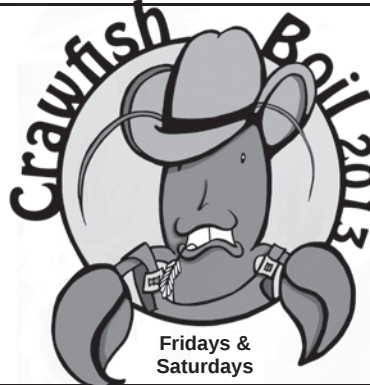
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Legislature update

— continued from page 9 —

other child. We believe by passing this law, it will protect our children and make Mississippi not only the safest state in the nation for the unborn but for all children.

- House Bill 590 provides support for “Main Street” improvements in our small towns.
- We, in the legislature, are very aware of the sacrifices that have been made by our veterans and their families. This year, a number of bills are aimed at recognizing and supporting their service. House Bill 1322, which I support and am an author of, will provide a tax incentive to employers who hire veterans. This bill needs some

adjusting, and I am confident that the final version will result in greater employment opportunities for our returning service men and women. Another veterans’ bill is House Bill 102, which offers our wounded veterans special areas for their hunting activities. I am also an author on this bill, which is expected to be signed by the Governor.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve as your State Representative. Please, feel free to contact me anytime at (601) 469-7886 or tmiles@house.ms.gov. You can also follow me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/reptomiles.

Pelahatchie Elementary School to hold Frontiers Community Night Monday, April 8

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m., Pelahatchie Elementary School and Frontiers Extended Day Enrichment Program will host Frontiers Community Night at the school. From 6 until 6:30, free pizza and drinks will be served to everyone attending.

During the program, parents and students will rotate around stations that are designed to illustrate the activities Frontiers provides for students each day during its after school program. These activities include homework

/study time, a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, service projects, and a special enrichment curriculum. Additionally, each Frontiers site invites special guests from the community to talk about their careers and areas of interest.

A registration table will be available for any parents who would like to register for next year’s Frontiers program at Pelahatchie Elementary. For more information, call Pelahatchie Elementary School at (601) 854-8060 or the Frontiers office at (601) 825-9714.

PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE CENTER APRIL				
BASEBALL SCHEDULE				
2ND	ETHEL	5 P.M. [JV],	7 P.M. [V]	HOME
5TH	ETHEL	5 P.M. [JV],	7 P.M. [V]	AWAY
6TH	NEWTON	11 A.M.		AWAY
9TH	HARTFIELD	5 P.M. [JV],	7 P.M. [V]	AWAY
12TH	HARTFIELD	5 P.M. [JV],	7 P.M. [V]	HOME
16TH	MCLAURIN	5 P.M. [JV],	7 P.M. [V]	HOME
FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL SCHEDULE				
6TH	PUCKETT	10:30 A.M. [JV],	12 P.M. [V]	AWAY
9TH	SEBASTOPOL	4:30 P.M. [V],	6 P.M. [V]	HOME
15TH	HARTFIELD	4 P.M. [V],	5:30 P.M. [JV]	AWAY



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