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PELAHATCHIE NEWS

**February
2015**

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Pelahatchie, MS**

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Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
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Coach Bishop remembered as a giving man

By: Stephanie Goss

Once in a great while a person comes along so incredible that they impact every life they touch.

Pelahatchie had a man like that. His name was Johnny Bishop. Recently, the community was shaken by the death of this treasured resident of Pelahatchie. The hordes of people who attended the funeral to express love and pay their respects were a resounding indication of the character and integrity of this great man.

Character is much more than just what others see; it is who someone is when no one is watching. It is doing the right thing simply because it is right. Johnny Bishop lived a life that displayed an abundance of character. Anyone who knew him or even came in contact with him was greeted with a gigantic smile, a tender heart and a colossal amount of encouragement.

The students he taught and coached

believed this "hulk" of a man truly cared about their well-being, their future and their salvation. His wife, Donna, said that Johnny's all time motto that he lived by every day was this: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I don't have a single bit of talent left and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'"

Friends, relatives, students, and coworkers will say that he



Coach Johnny Bishop, number 72, during his college football years at Louisiana Tech University. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

was every bit the person he aspired to be. Whether he was coaching various sports teams, teaching, or leading Sunday school, Johnny Bishop was touching and changing the lives of those in his path.

The multitudes of people who gathered at his funeral attested to that fact. As his friend Colby Boyd so eloquently put it, "If the turnout of a person's funeral is a reflection of how a person

impacted the world, the lives they touched, and a fulfillment of their purpose and reflection of character and integrity as shown evident by masses that take the initiative to show their respects, then Johnny Bishop's funeral proves he left a dent on this earth. He fulfilled a purpose."

A former coworker, Steve Tuttle, said, "Coach Bishop was a very dedicated and hardworking person that wanted the best for Pelahatchie High School and the athletics of Pelahatchie. It was a pleasure to work with him."

Johnny Bishop left a legacy for Donna, Jordan, Caitlin, family, friends, students, for everyone, because he gave everything he had - all of his time, all of his heart, all of his gifts - everything. Thank you, Coach Bishop.

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

- Albert Pine

Attorney General Jim Hood announces \$3.8 million multistate settlement with Sirius XM

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Attorney General Jim Hood, along with the attorneys general of forty-four states and the District of Columbia, has announced that Sirius XM Radio Inc. of New York has agreed to pay \$3.8 million to the states and to provide reimbursement to eligible consumers to resolve claims that the satellite radio company engaged in misleading advertising and billing practices.

Consumers who have not previously filed a complaint with their attorney general for the practices covered by this settlement have until May 3, 2015, to file a complaint to be considered for reimbursement. The amount a consumer can recover is not limited and will be based on the actual loss of the

consumer.

"I hope eligible Mississippians will take advantage of the settlement so they can get their money back," said Attorney General Hood.

The attorneys general allege that Sirius XM engaged in unfair and deceptive practices. The states were particularly concerned about cancellation requests that were not honored, automatic renewals which occurred without consumers' notice or consent, and unauthorized fees.

Under the terms of the settlement, Sirius XM will make significant changes to its business practices. Specifically, Sirius XM agrees to:

- Clearly disclose all terms and conditions at the point of sale
- Make no misrepresentations about

the available plans

- Provide advance notice of upcoming automatic renewals for plans longer than six months
- Improve cancellation procedures
- Prohibit incentives for customer service representatives based solely on retaining customers who attempt to cancel.

To be considered for reimbursement under this settlement, consumers must file a complaint concerning conduct from July 28, 2008, to Dec. 4, 2014, involving an identifiable loss that was not previously resolved. An example of identifiable loss might include a loss of money from instances where the consumer unsuccessfully tried to cancel or did not want to renew, but found themselves stuck pay-

ing for another term. Identifiable loss may also include a loss of time, such as when the conversation took much longer than reasonably expected due to problems with customer service.

Consumers who have a complaint regarding Sirius XM's business practices addressed by this settlement are urged to contact their state attorney general at (800) 281-4418 or to file complaints with Sirius XM directly before May 3, 2015.

Consumer complaints can be sent to Sirius XM by mail to PO Box 33059, Detroit MI 48232-5059, by going to www.siriusxm.com and using the search tool or the "contact us" portion of the web site, or by going to www.siriusxm.com/settlementprogram.



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Legislative updates: over 2,000 bills to consider



By: Tom Miles, State Representative, House District #75

As you know, the 2015 Legislative session is now underway, and we are working hard to make the first committee deadline of February 3, when bills that aren't brought forth will die for the session. We are considering over 2,000 bills this session.

Many of the early days of the session were spent welcoming officials and citizens who were at the Capitol on matters important to them. I enjoyed visiting with our local mayors, supervisors, county clerks, fire fighters and others who take the time to make sure we understand the issues that affect their ability to do their jobs. The Capitol belongs to the people, and it is important that we in the Legislature make sure the people are always welcome in their own state house.

Among the bills I'm hoping will make it out of committee is House Bill 633, which requires all high school students to achieve 25 hours of community service over four years in order to graduate. Miss Mississippi Junior High Bethani Grace Alman of Pelahatchie introduced this idea to me last year as part of her platform. It is one of the best programs I've heard to engage our young people into their communities. The idea is that beginning in the ninth grade, students will work in service areas that have been certified by their school districts. Students' work will be verified and counted toward the 25 hour requirement.



As a part of her Miss Mississippi Junior High platform, Bethani Grace Alman (right) of Pelahatchie introduced the idea of a commitment by high school students to serve the community. Alman submitted her idea to Tom Miles (left), State Representative. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

hatchie introduced this idea to me last year as part of her platform. It is one of the best programs I've heard to engage our young people into their communities. The idea is that beginning in the ninth grade, students will work in service areas that have been certified by their school districts. Students' work will be verified and counted toward the 25 hour requirement.

Many of us remember being involved in school organizations that emphasized helping in the community.

The Beta Club at Forest High School always mandated service work. What that did for us was give us an opportunity to be engaged with our neighbors and local families while doing good. It gave us a sense of belonging and let us know that there is a whole world out there to help.

Service builds leaders – that's one of the most important principles known to our society, and I think this is an opportunity for our students to lead by serving. I am very proud of

Miss Alman for her leadership at such a young age. I am sure we can expect more good work from her in the future.

Education is taking a front seat in Legislative discussions, as it should. I have filed and co-sponsored measures designed to improve our Mississippi education system to benefit all of our children, including increasing school security measures and providing funding to install safety cameras and seat belts on all of our school buses. Additionally, House Bill 67 would require that teachers be offered training to identify and prevent bullying in the schools. Bullying has been more and more in the spotlight as a chief cause of students' despair, and we should work to stop it.

Another effort worth mentioning is House Bill 645, which mandates that our community college athletic programs offer scholarships to only those athletes that reside within the college district. While winning championships is an important goal of any athletic program, we should remember that community colleges were formed to offer students the opportunity to receive excellent educations affordably and close to home.

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Clay Mansell
Publisher
601-397-4442
claymansell@pelahatchienews.com

Katie White
Managing Editor
601-566-1932 x5
katie@pelahatchienews.com

Photography
Rachael Boyer

Staff Writers
Stephanie Goss
Kristen J. Rials

Sales
601-566-1932 x5

For submission information, email
katie@pelahatchienews.com

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continued from page 2

Legislative updates: over 2,000 bills to consider

I have authored a number of other bills that I believe will benefit Mississippians. As I reported in December, one of those bills provides that the Holy Bible will be named as the state book (House Bill 1178). I am pleased to report that over 20 colleagues from both parties have joined onto this effort.

Among the other bills I have filed is one that would require registered sex offenders to denote that status on their social media accounts (House Bill 296). There have been numerous instances where social media users have approached and preyed on individuals who were unaware of their previous convictions on sexual crimes. If the status were made a part of the individual's "profile," it could offer protection to those they befriend. Although a list of registered sex offenders is available online, many people

don't take the time to look, and some offenders don't update their statuses as required by law.

I am also a co-sponsor of House Bill 885 which requires that insurance policies in Mississippi cover autism services. With this medical disorder becoming more and more common among our citizens, it is only right that insurance companies would treat it as any other illness. This measure passed out of the Insurance Committee on January 27 and will next see action on the House floor. Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann has indicated his support of this measure as well.

I'll be sending more updates to keep you informed as the session continues, and as always, welcome your input. Please feel free to contact me at tmiles@house.ms.gov, call me at (601) 469-7886, via Facebook at www.facebook.com/reptomiles

Student of the Month and Citizenship Awards



January Student of the Month recipients at Pelahatchie Attendance Center included (l to r), front row: Kaci White, 11th; Jordan White, 8th; Jacey Cooper, 7th; and Jennifer Harvey, 12th; (l to r) back row: Dyllan Taylor, 10th; and Maleigh Edwards. Also in January, further award recipients included (l to r), back row are: Nina Mills, Teacher of the Month; and J. P. Stapleton, Team Player of the Month. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

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Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 - Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
- 11:00 - Blended Worship Service
- 5:00 - Cross Clubs for Children & Students
- 6:00 - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

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

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January Citizenship award recipients at Pelahatchie Attendance Center included Alexis Hobson (left); and Jesse Edwards (right). (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



**Pelahatchie
Attendance Center
Sports Calendar**

www.rcsd.ms/Page/26571

2015 High School Basketball

February 3	St. Al	HS	Away	6:00 p.m.
February 10	Bogue Chitto	HS	Home	6:00 p.m.
February 13	Piney Woods	HS	Home	6:00 p.m.
February 16-20	Dist. Tourn.	HS	St. AL	TBD

ERA Robotics team wins big



The East Rankin Academy Robotics Team includes (l to r), front row: Cody Batte, Will Denson, Chance Gaddis, David Herz and Christian Barnes; (l to r), middle row: Catherine Teh, Austin Davis, Ward Winstead and Brady Davis; and back row: Leslie Trigg, Coach, Brandon Evans and Angela Trigg, Coach. (Team members not pictured: Hayden Hawk, Lilly Herring and Christine Schroeder.) (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Robotics Team competed in the First Tech Challenge Mississippi East Qualifier Tournament at Hartfield Academy on Jan. 17, 2015.

ERA won the Think Award for the team's engineering design and the Finalist Alliance Award, which qualifies the team to compete in the Mississippi First Tech Challenge to be held at The University of Mississippi on Feb. 20-21, 2015.

Student honored for patriotic art



Seven year old Amora McDuffett, a first-grade student at Pelahatchie Elementary, receives a 412th TEC pin from Sergeant 1st Class Darren Mitchell for the American flag card she made. Pictured (l to r) are, Diana McDuffett (Grandmother), Belinda Willis, Sgt Darren Mitchell, Amora McDuffett and Dama McDuffett (Mother). (Photo by Katie White)

By: Katie White

Not long after the morning bell rang, a young student in Belinda Willis's first-grade class at Pelahatchie Elementary was going to get a surprise visit by an American Army Reserve Sergeant.

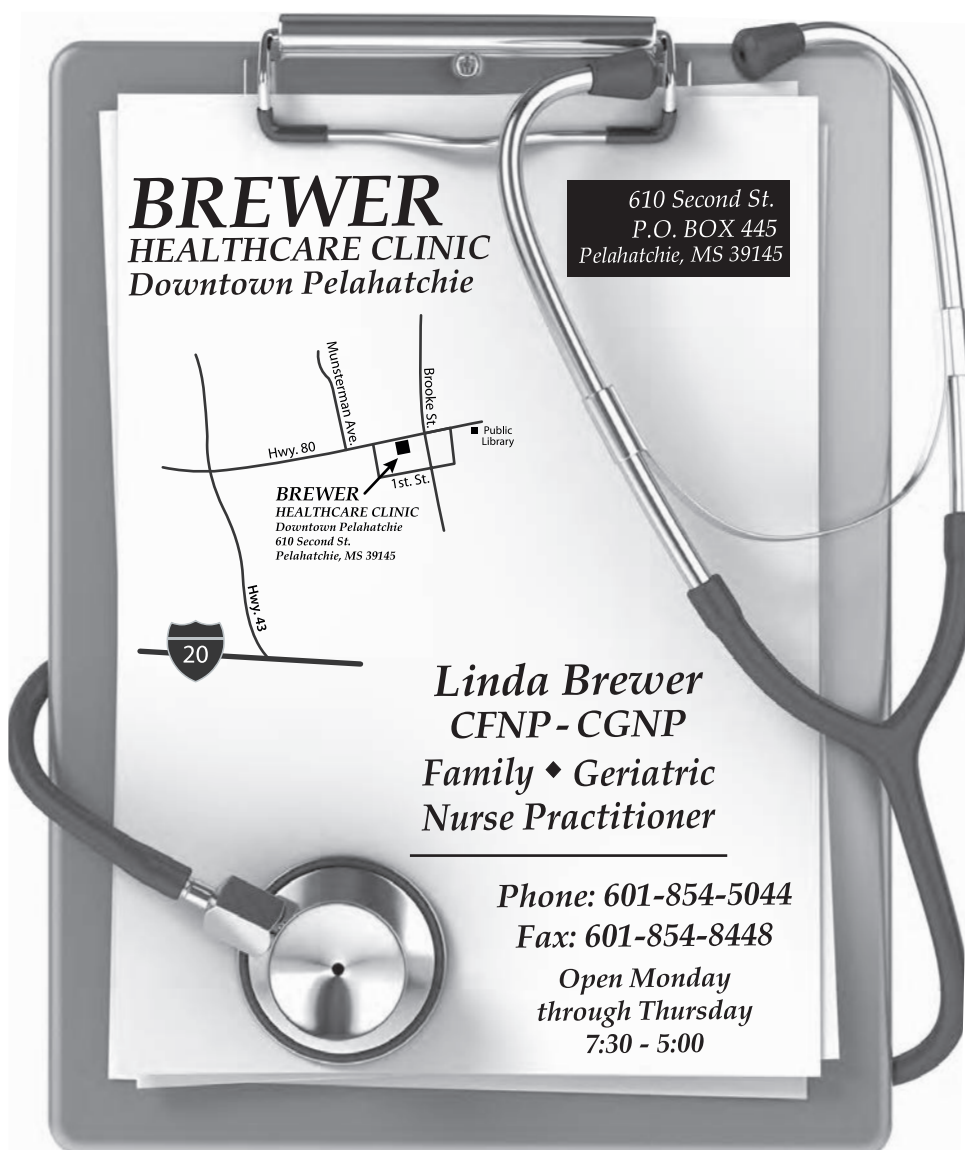
What brought the Sergeant to Willis's class? Soldiers who had served and are still serving were honored with a meal at Applebee's in Flowood on Veteran's Day. After the meal was served, those soldiers received packets full of coupons and cards made by several elementary students.

For Sgt. 1st Class Darren Mitchell, an officer with the 412th Theater Engineer Command (TEC), one card stood out. That card was made by Amora

McDuffett, who created an artful U.S. flag out of construction paper.

Sgt. Mitchell arranged a visit to meet McDuffett in her classroom on Jan. 21, and on that day he brought the flag she made with him. Pinned on the flag was a 412th TEC pin to honor her for creating the card that meant so much to him. McDuffett was asked to come forward to receive her token of appreciation. As emotions ran high for Sgt. Mitchell, the pin was placed on McDuffett's shirt.

The students were excited to see a soldier in their classroom. Sgt. Mitchell led the class in the "Pledge of Allegiance." He also talked to the class about the U.S. Army, and he made sure the students knew they are the "future of America."



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East Rankin Academy Sports Calendar
www.eastrankinacademy.org

High School & Junior High Basketball

February 4	South AAA Tourn.	JH	PCS	6:00 p.m.
February 5	South AAA Tourn.	JH	PCS	6:00 p.m.
February 6	MRA	HS	Home	6:00 p.m.
February 7	South AAA Tourn. cont.	JH	PCS	6:00 p.m.
February 9-14	AAA Div. II Tourn		Hillcrest	TBA
February 17-21	Class AAA State Tourn.		East Rankin	TBA
February 24-28	Overall State Tourn.		Miss. College	TBA



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Pelahatchie students hard at work for *Peter Pan Jr.* play



The Pelahatchie Junior High and High School *Peter Pan Jr.* cast includes: Mya Ainsworth, Katie Bayliss, Maggie Bowman, Morgan Boyd, Lexie Boykin, Kaylee Burnham, Ashley Cannon, Scarlett Castillo, Abigail Conn, Samantha Conn, Abigail Dawson, Maleigh Edwards, Jason Gill, Sydni Goldman, Todd Jones, Jacolby Magee, Tabitha Phillips, Lizzy Pinter, Anna Scherer, Olivia Sirmon, Gracie Smith, Rebecca Spangler, Daniel Sparks, Amanda Trest, Zach Trest and Jordan White; the elementary cast includes: Addison Archie, Katie Belle Boyer, Lawton Burnham, Leah Kathryn Carter, Annie Coward, Morgen Dawson, Avery DeMuth, Collins Doster, Ja'Leah Ford, Rose Gibney, Sammy Gibney, Maggi Gilliam, McKinley Goodin, Gracie Grogan, Grace Hemeter, Madi Holmes, Ally Horn, Tristen Jennings, Lucas King, Haley Mills, Camden Patton, Kyndal Patton, Revonda Renfrow, Payton Sanders, Reagan Sanders, Faith Smith, Adlyn Till, Ella Tucker and Kaitlyn White. Jessica Moulder is the Student Director. (Photos by Katie White)

By: Katie White

On March 26 and 27 in the Pelahatchie High School Auditorium, Pelahatchie Elementary and Pelahatchie High School students will perform the musical *Peter Pan Jr.* The play is currently in the production phase, and the students are working hard.

As the students practice on stage,

the set and costumes are materialized backstage, and this is where funding is greatly needed. To support this effort, business and vanity ads are available for purchase. The vanity ads are purchased for the performers by family members, and they are \$10. The business ads are available to further sponsor the play monetarily, while also advertising the sponsoring business. The

business ads are available in different sizes, and each ad size costs differently. See a cast member to purchase an ad, or contact Vicki Mercier, Choral Director and Music Teacher, at (601) 854-8135 or vicki.mercier@rcsd.ms.

Tickets will be available for purchase online and at the school office beginning Feb. 16.

For the March 26 performance,

purchase tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/disneys-peter-pan-jr-thursday-performance-tickets-15497491414>, and for the March 27 performance, purchase tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/disneys-peter-pan-jr-friday-performance-tickets-15497148388>. To purchase tickets directly from the school, contact the school's office at (601) 854-8135.

New healthcare delivery system

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Pelahatchie's closest hospital, Crossgates River Oaks Hospital, will soon be renamed Merit Health Central. The hospital, along with five others in the Jackson/Vicksburg region, all affiliated with Community Health Systems, have formed as a single regional healthcare system, Merit Health. The member hospitals have been known as Central Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, River Oaks Hospital and Woman's Hospital in Flowood, Crossgates River Oaks Hospital in Brandon, Madison River Oaks Medical Center in Canton and River Region Health System in Vicksburg.

The hospitals will join forces to share best clinical practices for quality care, achieve operational efficiencies, create organizational scale to enable the addition and expansion of important services, and expand access to primary and specialty care across the central Mississippi region. The combined system has more than 1,200 licensed beds, 3,300 employees and 1,800 physicians on active medical staff.

"Our hospitals have been working for some time to coordinate clinical and administrative strategies and best practices in areas, such as information technology, patient safety and clinical



Image special to *The Pelahatchie News*

protocols," said Tobey Houston, Merit Health spokesperson. "By coming together under this new structure, we will create new opportunities to expand services in primary care, medical and surgical sub-specialties, and to leverage our investments in recruiting new physicians to the market. Additionally, by coordinating certain management and support services, we will realize efficiencies and standardizations that will advance our commitments to high quality care, while reducing costs where possible."

"We are excited about our future as a new health system," Houston continued. "Our patients, physicians, employees and our communities will see our hospitals become even stronger together."

New signage is going up, and each hospital will be having celebration events featuring local dignitaries on Monday, February 9 at 11:30 am at the campus of each hospital. The public and media are invited to attend.

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Scam e-mails render computers vulnerable

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

An e-mail scam that uses fictitious court summonses has become active again.

The Office of the Clerk of the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals received numerous inquiries about e-mails which falsely claim to have come from a court.

The suspicious e-mails claim to be a notice to attend a court proceeding, although the e-mail recipient is not involved in any litigation. These e-mails were not sent by the Court of Appeals or any entity associated with the Mississippi Judiciary. Persons who are not involved in litigation would not receive such e-mail from the Mississippi appellate courts.

E-mail users are advised to be cautious of links in electronic correspondence received from unknown sources. Spammers may create sender addresses that mimic government agency addresses. The scam e-mails are a ruse intended to persuade recipients to open a link.

Mississippi Supreme Court Director of Information Technology Daryl L. Wingo said, "The spammer's goal in sending these e-mails is for the victim to click the 'can be found here' link so that they can collect sensitive

information from the victim, remotely install malware on the victim's computer, or both."

Supreme Court Deputy Court Administrator Rob Nations said the court has received numerous inquiries from attorneys and trial court staff regarding phony notices of oral argument or for show-cause hearings. The phony notices list a fictitious court agent.

One notice read, "Notice of appearance. You are hereby notified that you are required to attend the Mississippi Court of Appeals in January 28, 2015 as a defendant for the hearing of a pirated software case. Compulsory attendance. You may have the services of a lawyer, if necessary. Failure to appear may result in the imposition of sanctions. More detailed information regarding the case can be found here."

Opening the "can be found here" link may expose the user's computer to malware or allow the spammer to collect sensitive information.

Persons who have no involvement in litigation pending before the courts are warned not to open a link or attachment in unsolicited e-mail fitting this description.

If in doubt about the authenticity of correspondence, independently look up a telephone number and call the entity named in the e-mail.

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Rankin County Chamber hosts a ribbon cutting for Country Boy's



The Rankin County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Country Boy's Farm and Hardware on Jan. 15. Members of the Rankin Chamber, Mayor Knox Ross, family and friends all came out to show their support during the ribbon cutting ceremony. (Photo by Katie White)

Tree give-away at Rankin County Soil and Water

By: Katie White

The Rankin County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold a tree give-away on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 8 a.m., at the Rankin County Extension (911) Building located at 601 Marquette Rd., Brandon, MS 39042.

Tree Week was organized in an effort to establish soil and timber conservation. Future Farmers of America from different schools in Rankin County contribute to the efforts of Tree Week by voluntarily wrapping the tree roots before they are dispersed.

The types of trees to be given away are White Oak, Sawtooth Oak, Common Persimmon, Dogwood, Red Maple, Redbud and Loblolly Pines. There will be approximately 25 trees in each bundle.

The trees will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and there is a one-bundle limit per person. All the trees are usually given away before noon.

For more information, contact the Rankin County Soil and Water Conservation District at (601) 824-4601, ext. 3.



Example of a Dogwood tree in full bloom (above); example of a Red Oak tree leaf (below) (Photos special to The Pelahatchie News)



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Pastor's perspective: pleasant and kind words

By: Michael Simpson, Senior Pastor, Metro Baptist Church

Proverbs 16:24 - "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."
Many times I have encouraged my family, friends and especially younger ministers to accept the truth no matter how it came packaged - no matter whether someone tells us in anger or to do us harm. If it is the truth, then we are responsible to receive it.

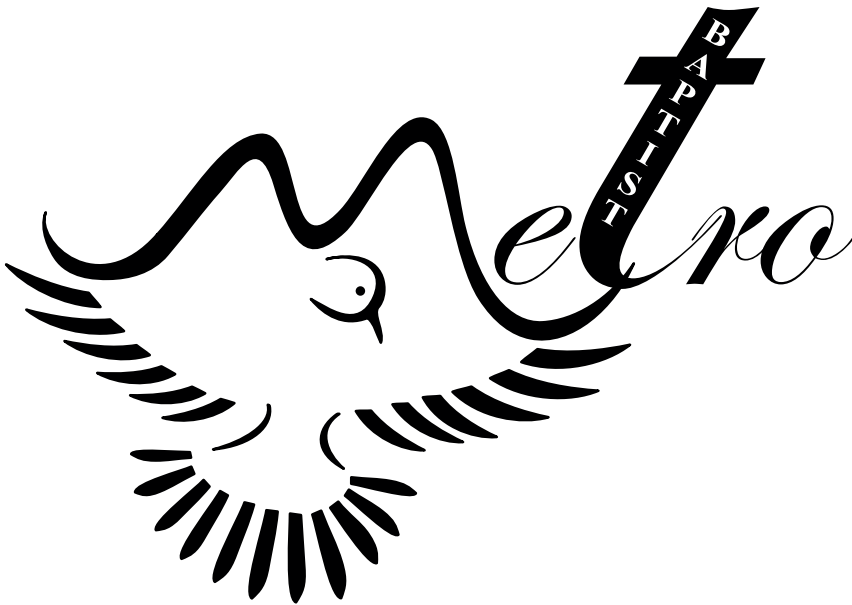
Yet, I have also shared that it is imperative that, for our witness, we must be careful how we administer truth and not to do it in a harsh or brash way if at all possible. In all these lessons, there is no better way for it to be communicated than when it comes directly from God and you are made fully aware of the reality of this principle. As the Spirit teaches in Corinthians, we are just making noise if we speak with the tongues of angels and do not have love. It is of little to no profit.

I had a couple once correct me concerning an issue. Honestly, I didn't give their words much thought. Being conditioned as a pastor and minister, there is always someone giving pastors advice on how they should act or what they should do, and much of the advice

and correction is often highly opinionated and not founded on scripture. Therefore, I quickly brushed off what they had told me, and did not evaluate it as I should have, even though their tone was a little sharp. In my confession, you can see at the time that I was not following my own lessons.

Possibly sensing that I had not taken seriously what they had told me, instead of berating me as many people will do others, they said very sincerely, "We tell you this because we care about you." That swept over me like a warm blanket on a cold winter night. Suddenly, what they had told me was so very important to me. Of course, it should have been important to me prior to their statement and show of love, but my apathy and pride had swallowed it up.

I try to be leery of apathy and pride, but it has a tendency to slip up on us and imprison us from truth. I have often tried to convey truth only to hear that I need to mind my own business. It is those times which call me to share that you are my business because I dearly care. If someone didn't, then they would certainly mind their own business and not be concerned with you or yours. Rather right or wrong and as many people often do, they will



take your business to others.
Pleasant and kind words have broken and shattered apathy and pride on all sides, when wrath and manipulation could do so very little. We desperately need to learn to express different ways to say, "I pray for you always," "You are important to me," "I am sorry," "I forgive you," and "I love you" as many ways as we can. Then maybe someone might be more apt to accept our teachings, correction, instruction and even our reproof; if only they know that we really do care. Please don't assume that they know, or expect them to know or even think they know you care. Let your words say it, your eyes express it, and your life convey that you really are about your Father's business and not simply your selfish interference in the life of someone else.
A pleasant and kind word is the most effective way to express that message. For it will be, "sweetness to the soul and health to the bones," as my friends were for me.

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Fighting the boredom blues this Winter



By: Guest
Columnist Dr.
Cindy Melton

It's a cold, wet, dreary, winter day. The kids are home from school, and no one wants to venture outside.

While it's tempting to let Minecraft and Netflix entertain the kids all day, they need a break from the screen. In this world of addictive apps and fascinating devices, how do we compete and keep our kids' minds and bodies from turning to mush? Here are a few ideas to add to your arsenal:

1. Cook! Find a fun recipe that you can make together (muddy buddies, rice krispies, chocolate covered pretzels, or chocolate covered anything.) Challenge kids by halving or doubling the recipe. They will have to multiply, divide and measure, all in the name of cooking!

2. Go on a scavenger hunt. Make a list of things to find around the house, i.e. something orange, a triangle, a penny, a burnt sienna crayon, or have

them find one item for each letter of the alphabet. Have kids take a picture of the item with their camera, iPod or phone and send it or show it to you.

3. Create with Legos. These plastic pieces are wonderful for the imagination. Kids can build what's on the box or create something completely original. Lost the instructions? Look online for blueprints (letsbuilditagain.com).

4. Break out the Hot Wheels. My children enjoy creating sloping race tracks across the room that end with a flying leap towards a shoebox. Cars that land in the box get to race again. The kids end up predicting which cars will make it to the final round based on factors like weight and aerodynamics (not bad for a rainy day activity.)

5. Play games. Games get kids moving and thinking. Using painter's tape, set up hopscotch, 4 square, or a simple line for balloon volleyball. Keep a deck of cards around for a quick game of go-fish, blackjack (great for math, but don't tell the kids) or solitaire – yes, good, old-fashioned solitaire! Uno, Blokus, Apples to Apples, Clue, Connect Four, Battleship, Payday and Scattergories are games

that encourage strategy and keep kids thinking.

6. Have an indoor camp-in. Make a tent or fort from sheets, blankets and pillows. It's like a life-size jigsaw puzzle for kids as they engineer a structure for their camp-in. They could even find a place to hang their hammock and eat some indoor s'mores.

7. Host a concert with homemade musical instruments. Bring out the oatmeal boxes, rice, beans and paper towel holders to make maracas, a rain stick, box guitar, trumpet or drums.

8. Sail paper airplanes across the room. Who can make the fastest airplane or the one that flies the longest distance? While you have paper out, try out some origami designs. There are lots of ideas online for making useful items, like a box for coins or paper clips.

9. Use some old socks or paper sacks to make puppets. Children can use their imagination with items around the house to decorate the puppets, and then you can act out a funny story together.

10. Make a movie. With so many great apps available, movie-making is a snap for our high-tech kiddos. You

can combine this activity with the airplane contest or with Lego building and create some really cool time-lapse videos. Teens especially enjoy putting together some funny frames, setting it to music, and sharing a laugh.

Although most children's rooms could easily be mistaken for a small Toys 'R Us, there will be an obligatory, "I'm bored," declaration on these days. Typically, children are not really bored; they are overwhelmed by too many choices and inexperienced at making good decisions, especially on how to spend their time. At any age, they need guidance, options and a bit of autonomy in choosing their next activity. Having a "Bored Board," with activities listed for kids to select from, or a paper bag with activities written on a piece of paper can help.

Most of all, jump in and enjoy this time investing in fun memory-making with the kids, even if it means making a mess. Before we know it, we will be the ones who are "bored" and looking for ways to spend our time!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Melton chairs the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership at Mississippi College.

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East Rankin Academy choir performs at the Old Capitol



East Rankin Academy Varsity Choir presented a selection of seasonal music as part of the annual Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour. Choir members performing in the rotunda at the Old Capitol Museum included (l to r): Paula Morehead, Christine Schroeder, Abbey Armstrong, Michaela Phillips, Shelby Autry, Win Winstead, David Herz, Ward Winstead, Catherine Teh, Lilly Herring, Claire Lindsey, Haley Hudgens and Lauren Parker. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

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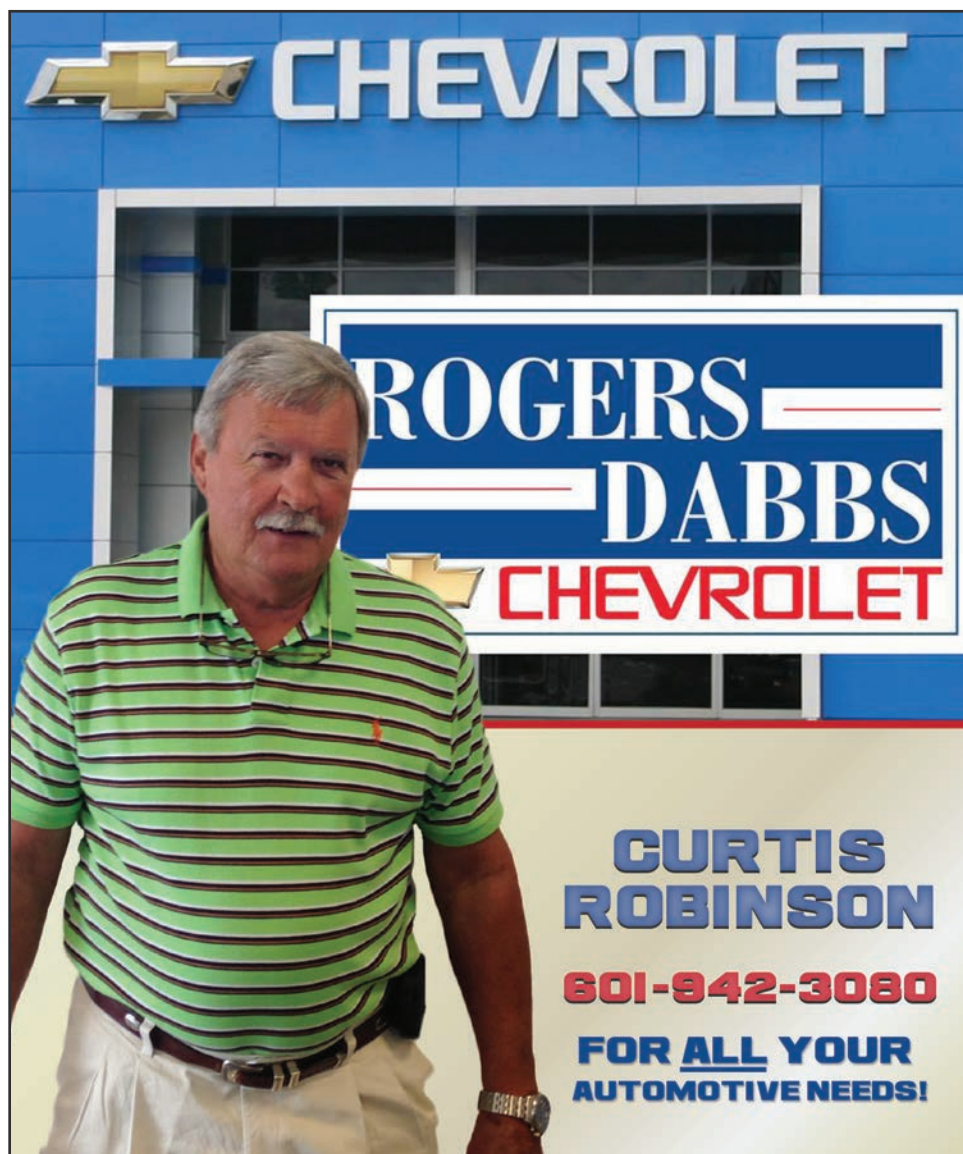
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