

Deputy rescues nine-year old girl

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Pastor's Perspective: the empty tomb of Jesus

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**April
2015**

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Pelahatchie, MS**

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Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
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Lady Chiefs win MHSAA 1A State Championship

By: Jay White

Chants of "We are Pelahatchie" along with the sound of the iconic power ballad "We are the Champions" echoed through the Mississippi Coliseum as the Lady Chiefs hoisted the golden trophy claiming the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) Girls 1A State Championship.

The Lady Chiefs were certainly not alone as Chieftain fans piled into the coliseum to support their team. Pelahatchie residents, current and former faculty, staff and students, and former players from some of the most successful basketball teams in Chief's history were also in attendance to witness this magical moment for the Lady Chiefs. It was a small glimpse of days gone by when small towns would practically shut down to go support their team's quest for glory.

To win the game, the Lady Chiefs

would have to fight hard all the way to the end, as they have had to do so many times during this championship run. The Lady Chiefs had early success with a three quarter court press that helped the team jump out to a four- point lead to end the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Lady Chiefs ran into foul trouble, which slowed the pace of the game and allowed the Lady Blue Devils of Ashland to get some easy buckets from the foul line. The Lady Blue Devils also began to handle the press much better, which led to a number of easy buckets that evened the score at 28 to end the first half.

The Lady Chiefs came out in a zone defense to start the second half of play. The score went back and forth early in the third quarter, but as the quarter came to a close the Lady Blue Devils grabbed a three-point lead. The Lady Blue Devils held the lead early in



The Pelahatchie Lady Chiefs with the MHSAA 1A state championship trophy (Photo by Katie White)

the fourth quarter, but the Lady Chiefs jumped back into a press during the fourth quarter and were able to capitalize on the Lady Blue Devils' turnovers.

With just under a minute to go in the game, the players, the fans, and the coaches realized that the cham-

pionship drought for the Pelahatchie Chiefs was about to come to an end.

The Lady Chiefs won the MHSAA Girls 1A State Championship for the first time since 1969 by beating the Ashland Blue Devils by a score of 54 - 48.

ERA girls win MAIS AAA Division II State Championship

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) girls basketball team capped off another successful season by claiming the 2015 MAIS Class AAA Division II title.

The ERA Lady Patriots began their tournament run by cruising past the Starkville Academy Lady Volunteers 67 - 53. In the semi-final match-up, the Lady Patriots went up against the Oak Forest Academy Lady Yellow Jackets and defeated them with a final score of 54 - 42. The Lady Patriots showed no signs of slowing down in the championship game as they battled the Columbia Academy Lady Cougars. The Lady Patriots took the tournament title with a final score of 51 - 39.

Referring to the championships, for both the Lady Patriots and the Lady Chiefs, Knox Ross said, "The Place to Prosper is now the Place of Champions!"



Lady Patriots with the MAIS AAA Division II state championship trophy (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

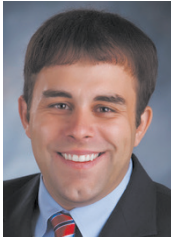


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Legislative updates: ironing out the differences



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

As you read this, the 2015 Legislative session is likely already in the books or very close to it. We spent last weekend in conference committees ironing out differences in bill, language and balancing the budget, as required by our Constitution.

Earlier in March, our Insurance Committee addressed and passed several Senate bills including Senate Bill 2380. This measure allows drivers to provide proof of insurance on their electronic devices, rather than having to present only a card when asked. Our committee amended the bill to include provisions prohibiting an officer/trooper from going through a person's phone or computer for anything other than the insurance information. It should already be signed by the governor and will go into effect July 1.

House Bill 873 is now law. It mandates that the State Employee Health Care plan cannot put a premium surcharge on any class of people. Gone are the days when people must

pay higher premiums for certain conditions or because they happen to be women. I strongly supported this bill.

Senate Bill 2695, commonly called the "Special Needs Bill," establishes a pilot program giving the parents of children with special needs the ability to withdraw their children from public schools and seek help from other education centers.

When the bill came before us, I offered an amendment that provided a means for legal aid to families who needed help obtaining special needs services and created a fund to provide therapy, equipment, tutoring, respite care, and a whole range of other services to supplement services already received. Under my amendment, all qualified children in school -- whether public, private or home -- would have been eligible to receive the funds. The amendment also addressed a request of the Autism Advisory Panel which would place an Autism Coordinator at the Mississippi Department of Education. The amendment was defeated.

I voted for the bill, which passed 64-53. My vote was a vote for people who are depending on us to make their lives better and to offer them every opportunity to succeed to their

very best potential. During my time in the House of Representatives, I have consistently introduced and voted for measures that would help improve the educational experiences of all Mississippi children, include children with special needs.

Our schools already have the mandate to provide these services, but in many areas, the schools have failed to do their jobs toward children with special needs. Perhaps the implementation of this measure will encourage all schools to step up and do the right thing, and the need for vouchers will be a thing of the past.

One measure that caused a tremendous amount of discussion was House Bill 1629, which had been to the Senate with our personal income tax elimination language. I voted to support the original measure, which would have phased out personal income taxes for individuals over the next 15 years. The tax elimination would be triggered when a certain level of budget strength was reached. This "trigger" was included to make sure that in case of another Great Recession, or worse, we would not be draining our resources beyond recovery.

When the bill was returned to us,

the Senate had amended the measure to include elimination of the corporate franchise tax, but had deleted the important "trigger" language. Many believed the amended version of the bill would lead to a tax increase on local property taxes and car tags if the trigger wasn't in place, because there would be no means to stop the tax reduction if we were in economic nosedive. The bill in the final version didn't pass.

We had several important moments in the House as we remembered and honored many who had served. On Thursday, March 5, we held a memorial service for former Speaker of the House Tim Ford. He was one of the longest-serving speakers in Mississippi history. We adopted House Concurrent Resolution 82 commending his life and public service.

I would like to congratulate the Pelahatchie Lady Chiefs on winning the State Championship and their historic season. I would also like to congratulate the Pelahatchie Chiefs and East Rankin Lady Patriots on their great historic seasons as well.

The Peter Pan production by the students of Pelahatchie was a great

Continued on page 3



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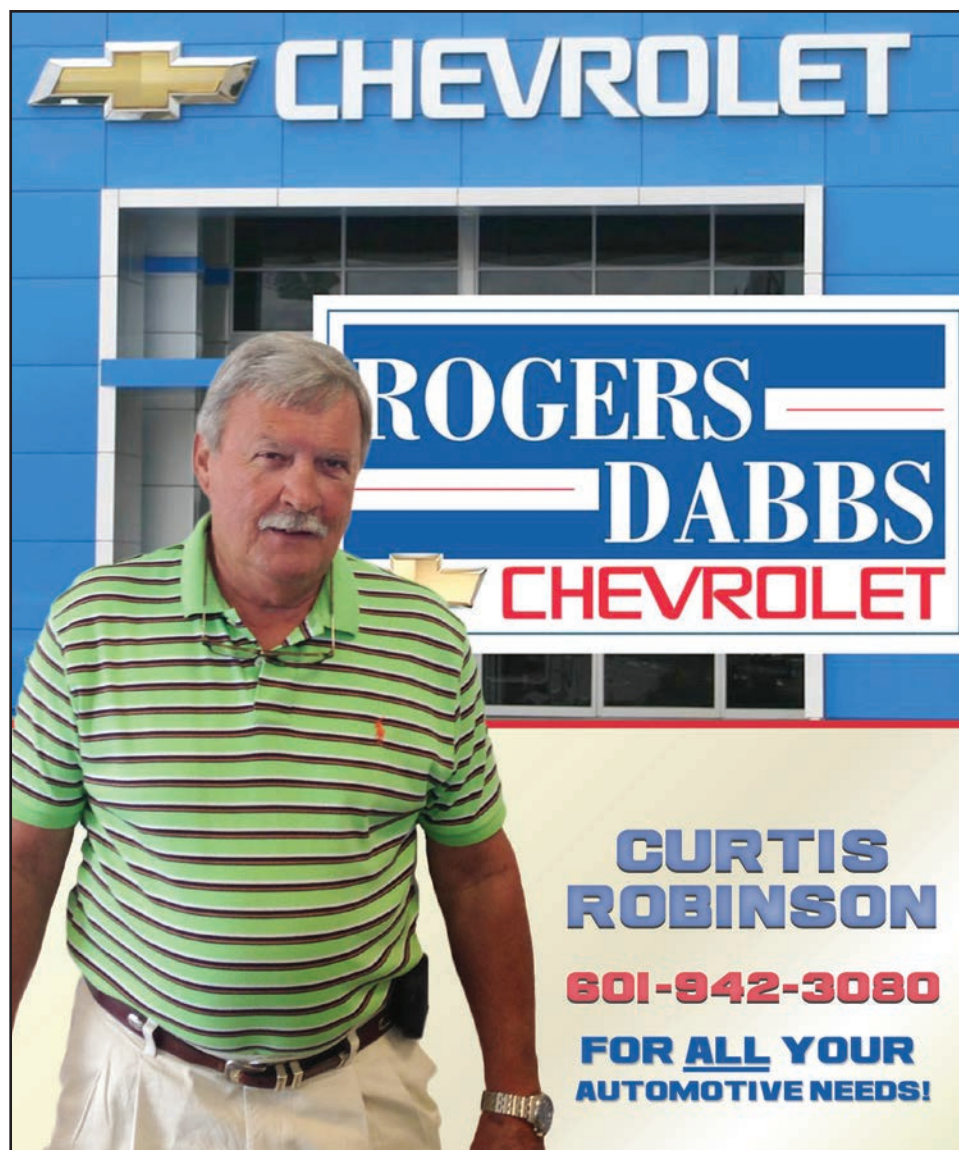
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Continued from page 2

Legislative updates: ironing out the differences

production, and our kids did a great job showing off their talents. It's always great to see our communities coming together to support our children.

Next month, I will give you a full update of what bills passed and will become law in July.

Thanks as always for giving me

the opportunity to be your Voice in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

If you have questions or concerns on the issues we are taking up on the final weeks, feel free to reach out to me at tmiles@house.ms.gov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/reptomiles, or at 601-732-9511.

Parade honors Lady Chiefs as MHSAA State Champions



On March 31, the town of Pelahatchie held a parade in honor of the Pelahatchie High School Lady Chiefs MHSAA Girls 1A Championship victory. The parade was organized by Patsy Watson, with the support of the town of Pelahatchie. (Photos by Susie A. Wolfe)



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Carry the Light supports missions



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The first annual Carry the Light 5K was held in Pelahatchie on March 27. There were 141 registrants, and 92 people crossed the finish line. The overall winner in the 5K run was Glen Crotwell of Morton, with a time of 21:23.5. The overall female winner in the 5K run was Kimberly Ashmore Morton, with a time of 27:38.9.

The overall winner in the 5K walk was Paula Chapman of Morton, with a time of 39:11.8. The overall male winner in the 5K walk was Eugene Pennington of Pelahatchie, with a time of 39:22.5. The overall winner in the Fun Run was Rouse Boyce of Pelahatchie, with a time of 6:52:3. For a

complete listing of runners and times, visit www.time2run.net.

The non-profit race helped raise support for the people of the Dominican Republic. A mission team from Pelahatchie Baptist Church will serve there from June 6-14 this summer. They will conduct medical clinics and Vacation Bible Schools. The team is led by Kevin McKee.

Organizers offered special thanks to Mayor Knox Ross, the City of Pelahatchie, and the Pelahatchie Police Department for helping make sure the race ran safely. Over 56 corporate sponsors joined with the effort. The members of Pelahatchie Baptist Church provided food and refreshments.



Pelahatchie Attendance Center Sports Calendar

www.rcsd.ms/Page/26571

High School and Junior High Baseball 2015

April 13	Puckett	JH	Away	4:00 6:00
April 16	McLaurin	JH	Away	4:00 6:00

April 7	St. Aloysius	HS	Away	5:00 7:00
April 10	St. Aloysius	HS	Home	5:00 7:00
April 14	Bogue Chitto	HS	Home	5:00 7:00
April 17	Bogue Chitto	HS	Away	5:00 7:00
April 20	Velma Jackson	HS	Home	5:00 7:00
April 21	Puckett	HS	Away	5:00 7:00

Lady Chiefs Fast Pitch Softball 2015

April 7	Sebastopol	HS	Home	6:00 4:30
April 9	Leake County	HS	Home	6:00 4:30
April 13	Ethel	HS	Home	6:00 4:30
April 16	Ethel	HS	Away	5:00 6:30
April 21	McLaurin	HS	Away	5:30 4:00
April 23	Baysprings	HS	Home	6:00 4:30

***District Games in bold**

*All game times and dates are subject to change

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Sanders nominated for Metro Teacher of the Year

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Robin Sanders, Elementary Interventionist at Pelahatchie Elementary, has lived in Pelahatchie all of her life. She attended Pelahatchie schools and is raising her own family here, as well. Sanders said she is proud of her school and the way it is growing together with the school community.

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) wrote the following on the Rankin County School District PES website, "Mrs. Sanders was nominated for Metro Teacher of the Year by the PES administration. She practices the idea that when a teacher builds relationships with learners, they are empowered to make learning choices and decisions, and to push themselves to go beyond their expectations, to really begin achieving. She has grown her own practice to be able to address student learning needs, and has a well-developed and sincere capacity to build a relationship with a learner based upon trust, academic growth and personal goals and success."

"The PES Little Chiefs are proud of Mrs. Sanders and all that she con-



Robin Sanders, Elementary Interventionist, was nominated for Metro Teacher of the Year (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

tinues to do for our school. She truly embodies the school vision; PES - in literacy, in numeracy, in well-being."

Sanders is married to Shane Sanders, Assistant Superintendent of Rankin County School District. They have two daughters; Reagan and Payton

Nelson awarded Pelahatchie Elementary Teacher of the Year

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Rebecca Nelson, third grade teacher at Pelahatchie Elementary, was named the Pelahatchie Elementary Schools (PES) 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year.

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) wrote the following on the Rankin County School District PES website, "PES is thrilled to announce our Teacher of the Year for school year 2014-2015, Rebecca Nelson. Mrs. Nelson exemplifies what it means to engage students in rigorous, relevant teaching and learning. Rebecca Nelson is an outstanding educator and lifelong learner."

"Mrs. Nelson takes the long-view with education - she believes that education is a process rather than an event in our lives. Mrs. Nelson is a lifelong learner as well. Mrs. Nelson is tireless in her pursuit of professional development that will push her practice to the next level, and that will push her learners to explore new things with vigor.

"It is with great PRIDE that the PES Little Chiefs celebrate Mrs. Nelson, our 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year."



Rebecca Nelson, third grade teacher, was nominated for Metro Teacher of the Year (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

"This is my third year teaching at Pelahatchie Elementary, but my 7th year toward inspiring third graders to be curious about the world around them and explore it to learn all they can about it. I pride myself in creating a classroom environment where learners encourage others and are comfortable to seek the help needed to work toward success," said Nelson.

"Some things I truly enjoy are my husband and three children, church, reading, traveling, gardening and quilting."

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- 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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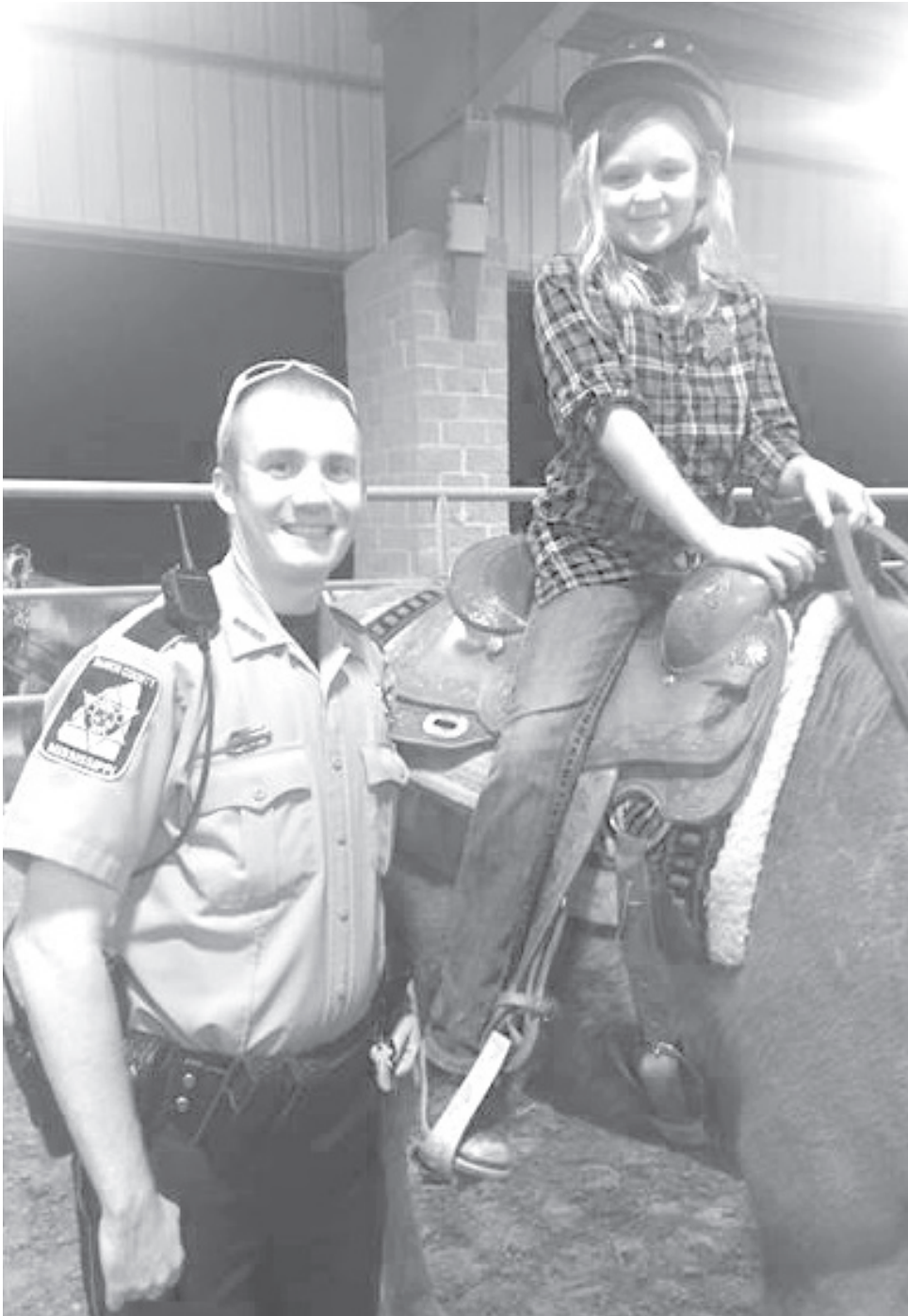
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Deputy rescues nine-year old girl



Deputy Strickland (left) stands with Dee Dee Ward (right) after her rescuing her from choking on a bottle cap. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Just before 8 p.m. on March 15, Rankin County Deputy Daniel Strickland was on duty working a detail for a riding competition at the Rankin County Pavilion on Marquette Rd. in Brandon. Deputy Strickland heard people screaming for help, and he ran to a group of people standing around

nine-year-old Dee Dee Ward, who was choking. Deputy Strickland immediately began lifesaving procedures and was able to dislodge a bottle cap which was lodged in her throat, blocking her airway. The girl's life was saved thanks to Deputy Strickland's training and his quick response. She was actually able to fully recover on the scene and return to riding.

WVFD is having a fish fry



The Walters Volunteer Fire Department (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Walters Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) is having a fish fry on Saturday, April 11, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The WVFD Ladies Auxiliary is also selling reflective address signs. Signs are \$20 and may be ordered

during the fish fry or by mailing a check to WVFDLA, 125 Walters Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145. Include a working phone number, and indicate if the house number should be vertical or horizontal. For more information, contact Cathy Allen at (601) 546-2197 or (601) 506-8641.



East Rankin Academy Sports Calendar

www.eastrankinacademy.org

High School & Junior Baseball 2015

April 10	Parklane	JH	Home	5:00 p.m.
April 13	Madison-Ridgeland	JH	Home	5:00 p.m.
April 17	Jackson Prep	JH	Away	5:00 p.m.
April 20	Jackson Academy	JH	Home	5:00 p.m.

April 7	*Columbia	B V	Home	5:00 7:00
April 9	*Columbia	V	Away	5:00
April 14	*Oak Forest	B V	Away	5:00 7:00
April 16	*Oak Forest	V	Home	5:00
April 21	*Parklane	B V	Home	5:00 7:00
April 23	*Parklane	V	Away	5:00
April 28	*PCS	B V	Away	5:00 7:00
April 30	*PCS	V	Home	5:00

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Southern Pine employees being recognized on National Lineman Appreciation Day include: (from left) Brian Gordon, Mark Wallace, Wilbert Floyd, David Gray, Stanley Ricketson, Greg Meadows, Trent Dotson, Billy Bradshaw, Jayce Wright, Dale Stewart, Ron Sumrall, Kevin White, Carl Styron, Namon Womack, Patrick Qualls, Kevin Bass, Brandon Gros, Randy Easterling, Keith Phillips, Will Jones, Rodney Buckalew, Trey Serio and Eddie Wilson. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Dan Davis, Marketing/Public Relations Manager, Southern Pine Electric Power Association

When you think of an electric utility, chances are that you get a mental picture of a lineman. Without our linemen, you wouldn't have the electricity you need to live in today's world. And when storms come through south Mississippi and knock out power, it's

our linemen that you rely on to get it restored as quickly and safely as possible.

Because of their importance not only to Southern Pine's members, but across the nation, the second Monday in April has been designated as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 13, Southern Pine will honor the hard-working men who often face challenging conditions to

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tion, truly deserve this special day of recognition."

Southern Pine proudly recognizes all electric linemen for the services they perform in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

Southern Pine invites members to take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do. Use #ThankALineman to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.

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Pelahatchie Elementary makes potato characters for Read Across America



Pelahatchie Elementary students created potato characters after their own beloved book characters in honor of Read Across America. Read Across America is an annual event created by the National Education Association in an effort to enhance reading skills. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Representative Tom Miles reads during Read Across America



Rep. Tom Miles participated in the Read Across America at Pelahatchie Elementary on Monday March 2, 2015. Pictured with Rep Miles are students from Pelahatchie Elementary. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



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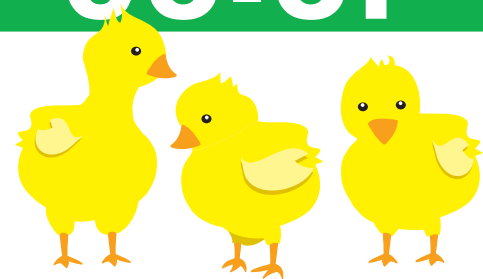
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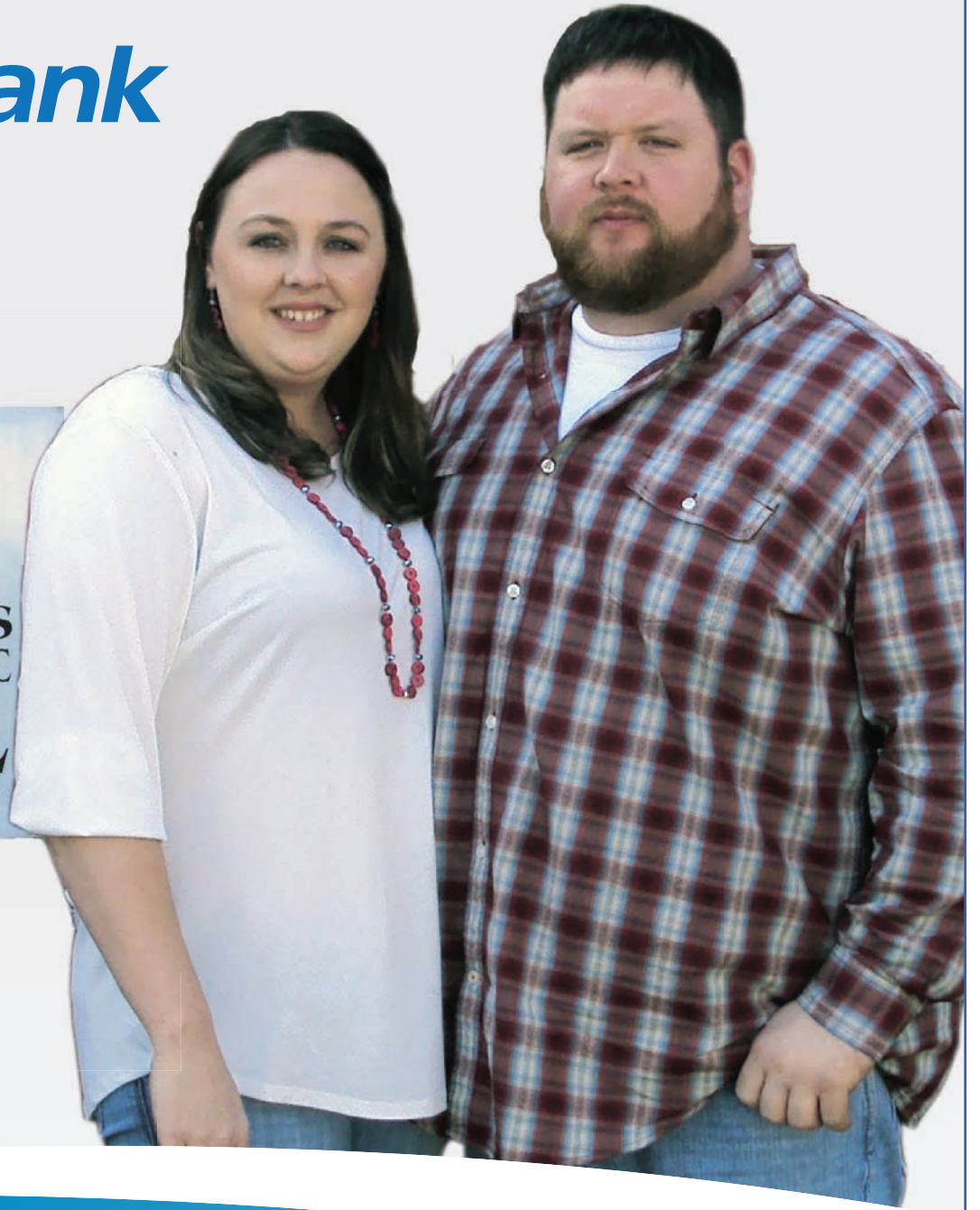
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CONGRATS LADY CHIEFS AND LADY PATRIOTS

MDES confronting fraudulent claims

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Across the country, criminals, using sophisticated computer systems, are attacking unemployment benefits programs to steal unemployment benefits and to steal personal information about thousands of Americans. Unfortunately, Mississippi's program is not immune from these attacks.

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) is aggressively confronting that challenge. In fact, from July 2014 through February 2015, MDES blocked more than 2.2 million attempts to file fraudulent claims for benefits. During that same period, less than .1% of the fraudulent attempts were successful, and MDES is working to reduce that number even more.

In the summer of 2014, MDES first detected a suspicious up-tick in fraudulent filings. At that time the agency also began receiving reports from employers and from individuals whose identities had been used to file fraudulent claims. In response to that information, MDES partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Mississippi Department of Revenue, and other states to block the Internet protocol addresses of computers that were being used for fraudulent filings.



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

MDES then adopted an applicant validation process, called Capcha, which you have probably seen on commercial websites. The agency also stopped direct deposits of benefits to bank accounts, which noticeably reduced the amount of improperly paid benefits. Now MDES staff are calling to verify that claims filed online are actually filed by real people and not by a computer, and more initiatives to further strengthen the verification process are underway.

Now MDES needs the help of employers, closely review any notifications received from MDES related to claims filed. If there is a claim that is not legitimate, immediately contact MDES by email at safe@mdes.ms.gov or by phone, 1 (800) 843-8923.

Pelahatchie cheerleaders hard at work at the carwash



Pelahatchie cheerleaders wash cars to raise money for cheer camp. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

On Saturday, April 4, the Pelahatchie Chieftain Cheerleaders held a car-wash in Pearl, Miss. to raise money for cheerleading camp, and the 2015-2016 school year.

Each year, cheerleaders in Rankin County may spend up to \$1,000 in expenses for cheerleading trips, camps,

cheerleading uniforms and other cheering necessities.

The cheerleaders are also selling ads for next years All Sports Media Guide. Monetary donations are welcome, and check donations may be made out to Pelahatchie Attendance Center (PAC) Cheer. These types of donations may be dropped off at the PAC office.

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Hinds CC receives grant to develop unplanned pregnancy prevention plan

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Hinds Community College has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy to develop a pilot program with activities and a plan of action for the prevention of unplanned pregnancy.

The grant allows Hinds an opportunity to develop a project that will meet the mandate of Senate Bill 2563 passed in the 2014 legislative session for each college and university to have a program. House Bill 37 now under consideration would give each community college \$56,000 to create a plan. "Hinds is the state's largest community college, and we see this small grant as an opportunity to test strategies for preventing unplanned pregnancies among our students," said Dr. Tyrone Jackson, associate vice president of Student Services and dean of students for the Raymond Campus. "Like other student support services, this effort aims to increase retention and ensure that more students achieve their educational goals."

The six-month pilot will provide opportunities for students to participate in lessons, workshops and seminars. In addition, faculty will voluntarily participate in professional

development sessions to explore curricular and co-curricular content integration across the disciplines. Student leader groups and club sponsors are encouraged to begin exploring ways to incorporate the theme into 2015-2016 goals and projects, said Director of Counseling Mary Lee McDaniel, who is project director.

"Hinds Community College is taking the lead on designing a plan of action to develop and implement a pilot program to address the issues of the prevention of unplanned pregnancy and college completion as outlined in Mississippi Senate Bill 2563," McDaniel said. "By partnering with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, Hinds is kick-starting the pilot program in January 2015 prior to the July 1, 2015 mandate."

Hinds will use an existing program, Single Stop USA, to help with referrals to the program. Single Stop helps students overcome barriers to continuing their education such as problems with child care or transportation by connecting them with resources that already exist. Hinds has three Single Stop offices, including one on the Raymond Campus.

The head start Hinds has in implementing the mandate "will provide op-

portunities for Hinds to foster community relations with appropriate outside health resources and strengthen the Single Stop collaboration in preparation for Bill 2563," McDaniel said.

Counselor and program coordinator Jovonna Parker said she believes "SB 2563 will positively impact Hinds Community College, our community and the state of Mississippi. The college's efforts to reduce teen and unplanned pregnancy will be expanded under this bill, and collaborative efforts will allow for us to reach a larger population of students. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy has provided the College with comprehensive resources that will be utilized throughout courses, student activities, residence life activities and community outreach."

According to the National Campaign, half of all pregnancies, fully seven in 10 pregnancies among single women in their 20s, and eight in 10 pregnancies to teens are unplanned. Unplanned pregnancies increase the risk of dropping out of college, and 61 percent of community college students who have children after enrolling don't finish their education, a rate 65 percent higher than those who didn't have children.

"More than one million unplanned



Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*

pregnancies occur to single women in their 20s—a group that includes many in community colleges," said Sarah Brown, CEO of The National Campaign. "From the standpoint of community colleges, the consequences of unplanned pregnancy are especially compelling because unplanned pregnancy so often distracts, delays, or derails students from reaching their educational goals."

AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

Celebrate National Library Week during the week of April 13.

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programming at the library.

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Friday - Closed

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY, STATE	DOD
Harold Rinehart	60	Sebring, FL	03-01-2015
Ola Carroll	94	Morton, MS	03-02-2015
Richard Harrell	61	Texas	03-03-2015
Jimmy Peoples	58	Brandon, MS	03-04-2015
Antonio Montgomery	28	Houston, TX	03-10-2015
Tom Ed Waggoner	75	Forest, MS	03-16-2015
Mable Jean Peavy	83	Pelahatchie, MS	03-23-2015
Elizabeth Bates	56	Forest, MS	02-01-2015
Margaret Clifford	66	Morton, MS	02-03-2015
Billy Parker	78	Pelahatchie, MS	02-06-2015
Vanetta McGhee	68	Brandon, MS	02-06-2015
Albert Bailey	75	Columbus, MS	02-09-2015
Helen Ross	82	Morton, MS	02-09-2015
Michael Shane Perritt	42	Morton, MS	02-12-2015
Virginia Moore	84	Morton, MS	02-14-2015
Laverne Martin	81	Morton, MS	02-16-2015

Arrangements by
Wolf Funeral Services, Morton, Mississippi

Arts and crafts at Shiloh Methodist



Shiloh United Methodist campground (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The first annual Shiloh Arts and Crafts Show is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The art and craft show will take place on the campground at Shiloh United Methodist Church. A variety of handmade arts and crafts will be offered by a group of select Mississippi vendors. Gospel music, craft demonstrations and children's activities are planned for the day.

A silent auction will be held featuring items from each of the vendors.

Proceeds from the auction will benefit Operation Christmas Child (shoebox ministries).

The event is free to the public, who is encouraged to come enjoy the music, craft demonstrations and food concessions while browsing the arts and crafts. Handmade arts and crafts could make great gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, weddings, birthdays, retirement and many other occasions.

For additional information, contact Skip Lathem at (601) 213-7528 or skiplathem@bellsouth.net.

Todd Barnthouse joins PriorityOne

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

PriorityOne Financial Services recently announced that Todd W. Barnthouse has joined them and will serve as a Financial Advisor in the Ridgeland branch office of PriorityOne Bank.

"I am delighted to have Todd join PriorityOne Financial Services," said Thomas Lee, Division President. "His enthusiasm and previous work experience will make him a great asset to our financial services team."

Barnthouse offers financial advising, retirement and investment services for individuals and small businesses.

Prior to joining PriorityOne, Barnthouse was an associate for Merchants and Farmers Bank, and their brokerage arm Infinex and Renasant Bank, which utilizes LPL for their investment services, in Madison for the past two and a half years.

Barnthouse is a graduate of Mississippi State University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Finance.

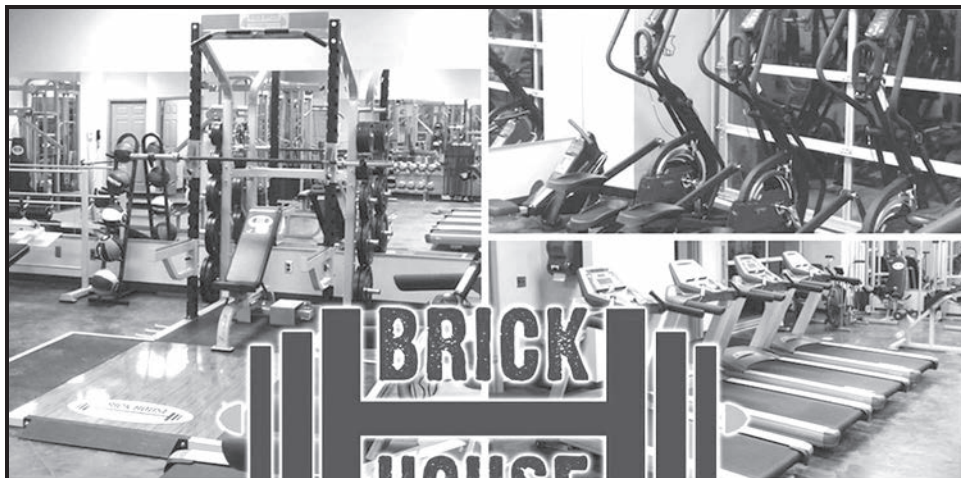
Originally from Brandon, he still resides in the reservoir area with his wife, Madison Barnthouse. He attends Pinelake Church in Brandon and coaches a 12-year-old little league baseball team, "Southern Rock."

PriorityOne Financial Services is a



Todd W. Barnthouse, Financial Advisor, PriorityOne Bank (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

division of PriorityOne Bank that offers full service brokerage and investment services through an arrangement with Raymond James Financial Services. PriorityOne offers banking and investment services in 11 Mississippi communities, Ridgeland, Brandon, Pearl, Richland, Pelahatchie, Morton, Mendenhall, Magee, Collins, Seminary and Hattiesburg.



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Pelahatchie seeks public input

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The Town of Pelahatchie is working with the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) on an update of the town's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

In order to assist CMPDD planners and town leaders in developing this plan, citizens are asked to complete a brief on-line survey. The survey can be found at www.pelahatchie.org. Citizens' input and comments will be a valuable part of this process.

New Student Minister at Cross Roads



Cross Roads Baptist Church has called Rev. Kevin Halle to serve as their Bi-vocational Minister of Students. Kevin and his wife, Kristy, are both teachers at Brandon Middle School. Halle previously served at Cross Roads for a three years as Student Minister before beginning his teaching career. (Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*)

Author wows Pelahatchie Elementary



Michael Finklea impresses and engages Pelahatchie Elementary students by creating an imaginative story using elements in the Pelahatchie High School auditorium where they met. (Photo by Katie White)

By: Katie White

Michael Finklea, American children's author, visited Pelahatchie Elementary on April 1 in the school's auditorium.

During his visit, Finklea spoke about how every time a publisher rejected one of his stories, he wanted to give up. He described how his mother and sister encouraged him to keep trying. When his first book, *The Worldwide Adventures of Winston and Churchill*, was accepted after nine attempts,

it taught him a valuable lesson about perseverance. "You never give up," said Finklea.

Finklea amazed the students by using different elements in the room they were in to show them how they could weave an imaginative tale of their own. He also impressed them by reciting the first chapter of his book *Creepers*. Finklea encouraged the students to read and write.

To learn more about author Michael Finklea and to purchase his books, visit www.michaelfinklea.net.

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Town of Pelahatchie provides Easter fun at Muscadine Park

By: Katie White

It wouldn't be an Easter egg hunt without kids, Easter baskets, Easter eggs, edible treats, face painting, candy, baby animals and a spring-themed decorated park where such activities can be held.

On March 28, the town of Pelahatchie held such an Easter Egg Hunt at Muscadine Park. The hunt was open for newborns to eight year of age.

Crooked Creek provided a petting zoo. They brought puppies and kittens that are available for adoption once they are properly weened. They also provided a lamb, baby chicks, a bunny and ponies.

Pelahatchie Baptist, Pelahatchie Antioch Baptist and Pelahatchie Concord Baptist combined their efforts to provide face painting and games.

Staff at Pelahatchie City Hall provided cupcakes and punch.



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Photos by Katie White

Cruise Crooked Creek 5k

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The Pelahatchie High School Chieftain Community Club (CCC) has pulled together a 5k called Cruise Crooked Creek. The 5k will be held on April 11, and participants can register up until the day of the race. Registration is from 6 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. The race will begin at 7:30 a.m. A fun run and walk is scheduled following the 5k race.

Registration is \$25 for an adult and \$15 for a child 10 and under. The money raised for the 5k will go towards renovations of the Pelahatchie High School Auditorium and a new sound system.

Several businesses have teamed up with CCC and they are sponsoring the race: Kona Ice, Bank Plus, Specialty Tree Service LLC, Ross & Betts CPA, Larry Swales Chancery Clerk, Walter's Power Equipment, T & L Glass, Fairway Foods, The Service Station, Brewer Healthcare, Representative Tom Miles, Blue Box Dental Laboratories and Brick House Fitness Center.

The 5k race will start and finish at the Pelahatchie High School football field, located on Warren Ave.

Currently, the Cruise Crooked Creek 5k t-shirts are still available but



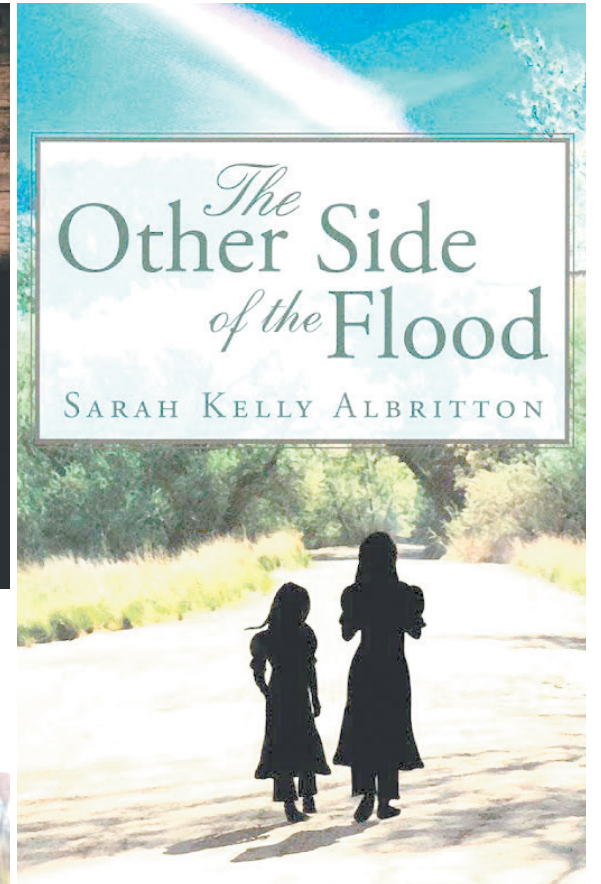
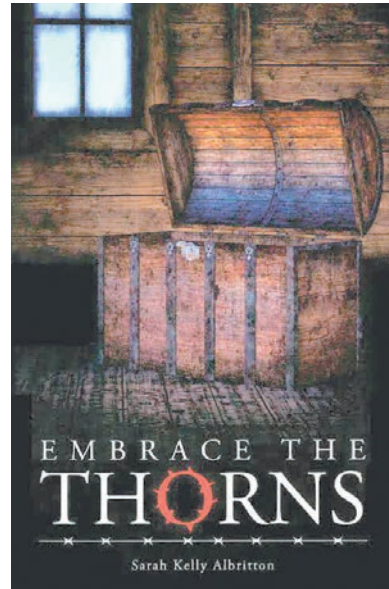
Cruise Crooked Creek t-shirt image (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

as participants continue to register, they may run out.

To register, pick up a form from the Pelahatchie High School office or register on-line at <http://www.cruisecrookedcreek.com>.

For more information, contact Jessica Sledge at (601) 832-8708 or Debra Atkinson at (601) 209-9562.

Albritton to sign books at Forest City Public Library



Sarah Kelly Albritton will sign copies of her books *Embrace the Thorns* and *The Other Side of the Flood* on April 11, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., at Forest City Public Library. (Photos special to The Pelahatchie News)



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Pelahatchie students perform Disney's *Peter Pan Jr.* play



On March 26 and 27 at the Pelahatchie High School Auditorium, Pelahatchie Attendance Center and Elementary students performed Disney's *Peter Pan Jr.* Cast members wore appropriate costumes for their characters, and they performed their hearts out for a grateful audience. 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. Not pictured: Vicki Mercier, Music Teacher and Choral Director; Robby Scucchi, Director; Donna Bishop, Production Assistant; Tina Gibney, Choreographer; Shawn Richards, Art Director; Jennifer Harris, Parent Liaison; and Jessica Moulder, Student Director. (Photos by Rachael H. Boyer)

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