

Cross Roads Baptist to sponsor silent auction

See page 3

Tree give-away at Rankin County Soil and Water

See page 9

PELAHATCHIE NEWS

**February
2016**

**Volume 5
Issue 2
Pelahatchie, MS**

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Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
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Multicraft renovates downtown house as international headquarters and meeting center

By: Susie A. Wolfe

Multicraft CEO Andrew Mallinson is proud to be a Pelahatchie company. With all of the automotive supplier's operations now in town and in the industrial park, he will showcase that fact when international business associates come to town at the company's new downtown headquarters and meeting center.

Mallinson said the company will use the renovated white house as a place to receive visitors and to think about business and future products away from the manufacturing plant. It will be a "think tank" or "incubator" where they can teleconference with business partners around the world.

The improved expansion is almost complete on the property on Highway 80, where the goal was to keep the era of the house, while integrating it with modern technology. Much of the work



Andrew Mallinson, Multicraft CEO, left, is shown with Joe Ashker, Materials Manager, at the control center for the house's technology. (Photo by Susie A. Wolfe)

done the last two years on the 2,500 sq. ft. building was handled in-house by a team led by Materials Manager Joe Ashker.

"Joe is the heart and soul of this renovation," said Mallinson. "All his skills came together for this one project, plus utilizing the talents of many of our staff. It was a labor of love."

They also used local tradesmen to help with the specialized lighting, design and small construction projects. Residents Chris Pittman refinished the flooring and Randy White built the cabinets. Jackson designer Matt Nichols handled the interior décor.

The house, originally built in the early 1900s, is one of the oldest properties in town. In the last 30 years, it has been a restaurant, a retail store and a doctor's office as well as a residence. After the renovations, it is a 'showplace of Pelahatchie living' with use of

continued on page 6

Two dances set for first week in February

50s Style Night of Fun for Mother and Son

**Friday, February 5, 2016 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Pelahatchie Community Center**

Tickets can be purchased from City Hall or contact Jennifer Poole at 601-503-0332
peelahatchiemilltownpark@gmail.com
peelahatchiemilltownpark.org



Image special to The Pelahatchie News

Special to The Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Milltown Park is presenting the first mother/son dance, 50's Style Night of Fun, Friday, February 5 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Food will be from a diner menu, plus there will be entertainment, games, and door prizes.

Tickets are \$22 purchased in ad-

vance by January 29, or \$30 at the door. One ticket is required per mother/son couple. Additional tickets are \$8.

Tickets can be purchased from City Hall or by contacting Jennifer Poole at (601) 503-0332 / peelahatchiemilltownpark@gmail.com or peelahatchiemilltownpark.org.



Image special to The Pelahatchie News

Special to The Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Lions Club will host the annual father/daughter dance for children 5-12 years of age on Saturday, February 6.

Photos taken for the couple dressed in Sunday attire start at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$50 per couple, with \$5 for

each additional child. Picture cost is included.

Space is limited to 50 couples. Tickets may be purchased Monday, 9:00-4:30, or Friday, 9:00-6:00, at Trustmark National Bank in Pelahatchie. For more information, contact Sharon Bray at 601-854-8112 or Charlotte Clark at 601-613-1540.

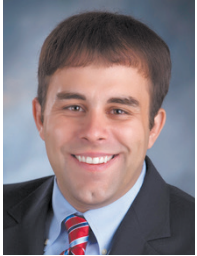


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Legislative updates: 2016-2019 term kick-off



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

The Mississippi Legislature kicked off our 2016 – 2019 term of office on Tuesday, January 5, at high noon when we took our oaths of office to serve for the next four years.

I was honored to be sworn in for my second term, representing District 75, which now includes Scott County and a portion of Eastern Rankin County. It was a big day for all of us in Mississippi and especially in Scott County, when our own State Senator Terry C. Burton was elected as President Pro Tempore of the Senate by a unanimous vote of his colleagues.

Senator Burton has served this area with distinction since 1992, and I am fortunate to have had someone like him to help me learn the ropes during my first term. Although we are in different chambers, he has always reached out in kindness and friendship. He offers a great role model for how to get along for the good of our constituents. I look

forward to watching him serve in the second-highest position in the Senate for the next four years.

The first two weeks of the session otherwise has been pretty low key, with time being spent getting everything organized. In the House, we elected our speaker, Rep. Phillip Gunn, and our speaker pro tempore Rep. Greg Snowden, both of whom will serve during the entire four years.

The state-wide officials took their oaths of office on Thursday, January 7, with Governor Phil Bryant being sworn in on Tuesday, January 12. We enjoyed attending the governor's inauguration ceremonies with people from all over Mississippi.

The early days of every session are marked with meetings with our Supervisors, Circuit Clerks, Coroners, Municipal Officials and many others. It's always great to welcome our friends from our hometowns who come to visit and help us understand the issues they are facing.

I was especially proud to welcome the young people from Pelahatchie who came in with Youth Leadership Rankin and the Pelahatchie High School FFA. Young people like this

give us all a hope for the future.

It was good to have the Mississippi Economic Council in town to emphasize what some of us have been pushing for – systematic repair and maintenance of our roads and bridges. It always helps to have the business community on your side.

It was great to greet the Mississippi Firefighters Association about legislation benefiting these important community service providers. Anything we do for these courageous men and women benefits all of us in the long run.

I've had a number of people express to me that they would like to see Home Economics placed back into the classroom. This is an area that was once a mainstay of a high school education; and, for some reason, it was decided that young people didn't need to know how to run a household. This is a skill set for both men and women, and I would love to hear from you on this topic. Do you think we should reintroduce this subject for our high schoolers? That's what the State Homemakers Association is advocating, as I learned when I met with them last week. I was proud to see Mrs.

Shirley Sawyer of Forest, who is Vice President of this organization.

You may have heard that we dealt with the election challenge between Rep. Bo Eaton and Mark Tullos. The House ruled in favor of sitting Mr. Tullos as the new State Representative of House District 79. Rep. Eaton served his district for 20 years, and I wish him well in whatever the future holds.

We should be getting new committee assignments this week, and the legislative process will be in full swing.

Transportation is just one of the issues that will be discussed during the session. I expect us to also be discussing foster care reform, education and healthcare.

Please look for my columns with more legislative updates. If you would like to be on my email list for regular updates, please contact me at tmiles@house.ms.gov.

I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve as your State Representative and your voice in State Government. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime at tmiles@house.ms.gov, via Facebook, or 601-469-7886.



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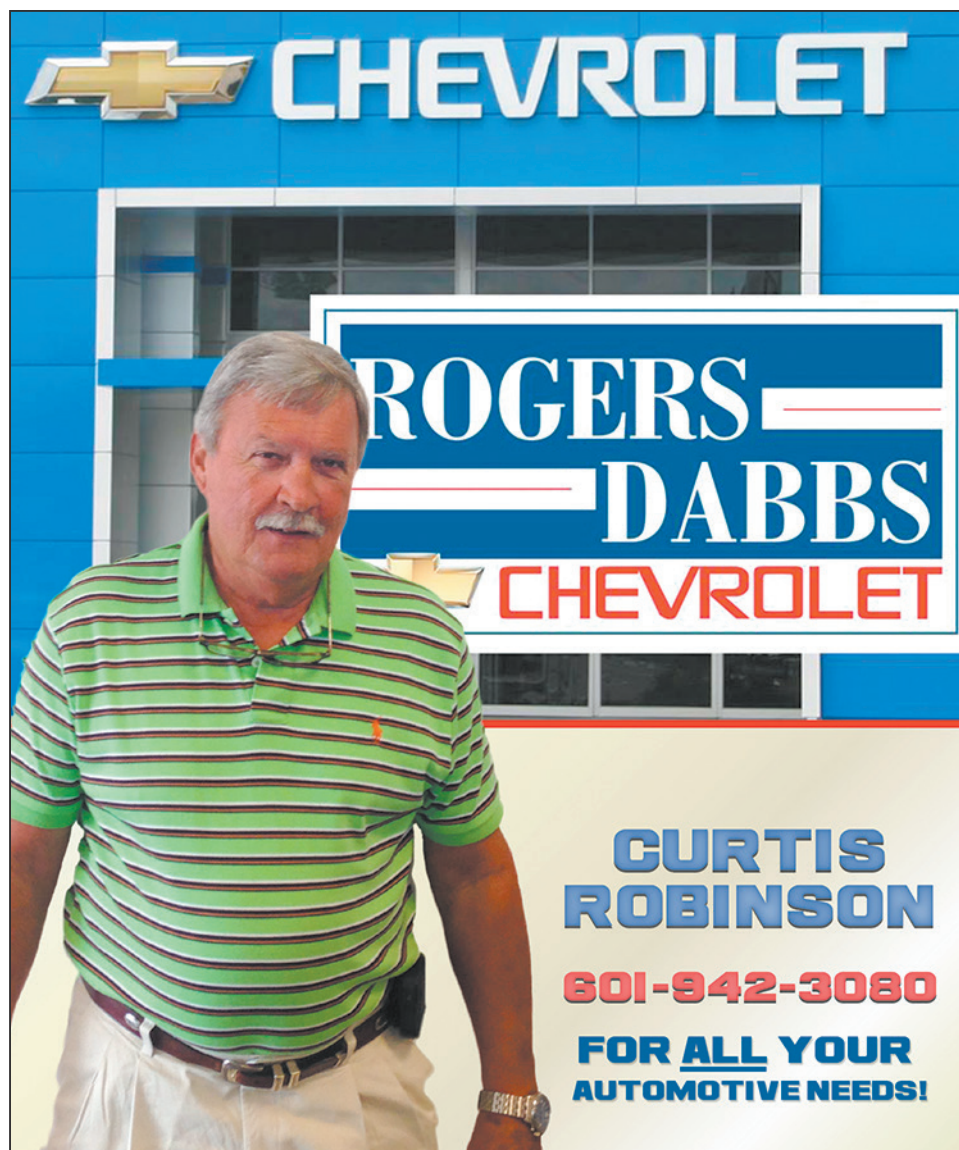
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Cross Roads Baptist to sponsor silent auction for sanctuary improvements

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

On Sunday, February 14, Cross Roads Baptist Church will have a silent auction. All items in the auction will be home made or hand crafted.

Items up for auction will be provided by members and friends of the church and will include quilts, furniture pieces, original paintings, needlework, decorative items, jewelry and crafts. Various baked goods will also be included.

In addition, hamburger plate lunches will be available for a donation until 1:00 p.m. The proceeds of the lunch and auction will be used to help put new carpet and pew cushions in the church sanctuary in anticipation of the church's Centennial Celebration on July 17.

Silent
auction



Image special to The Pelahatchie News

Everyone is invited to come to Cross Roads for lunch and participate in the auction. Cross Roads Baptist Church is located at 104 Crossroads Road, 5 miles south of Interstate 20 on Hwy 43.

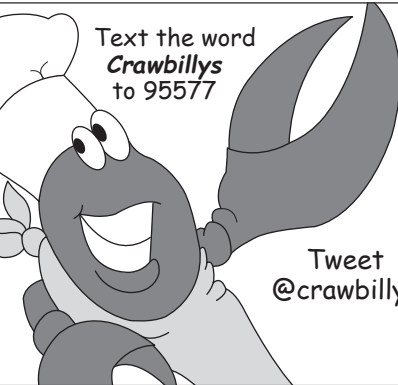
For more information, call the Church Office at 601-546-2297 or visit our website: www.crossroadspel.org.



**PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE
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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Feb. 2	Puckett	Home	6:00
Feb. 5	Pisgah	Home	6:00
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Feb. 12	Lake	Away	6:00
Feb. 15-19	District Tournament	Puckett	TBA



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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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The importance of partnerships between teachers and parents

By: Dr. Bryan Marshall, Pelahatchie High School Principal

From the desk of an educator, to the office or home of a parent, the task of teaching students is laid upon each of us. We are charged with the daunting task of teaching right from wrong, good and evil, work ethic, dependability, morality, ethics in general, and the overall characteristics of a productive member of society.

You see, teaching is not about test scores necessarily, but about the final product of a child's years in school. Great test scores, without the other characteristics of teaching, are useless. What good is a graduate that had fantastic test scores that is not willing to work?

So, what makes someone great? What inspires them? I often think about great leaders and what they had to endure and push through to be the leaders that they were. What made them fight so hard to get what they wanted or to pursue and achieve their dreams?

George Washington said, "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am, I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her."

What ideals inspire greatness? John F Kennedy said in his famous speech, "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." President Kennedy inspired a nation with that famous speech, and why?

What is it that inspires us to do great things? Ronald Reagan said, "I know in my heart that man is good. That what is right will always eventually triumph. And there's purpose and worth to each and every life."

Martin Luther King Jr., again, inspired a nation when he spoke these famous words, "And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's

children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

And, again, I ask myself, what did each of these great leaders have in common? The answer is, they were not afraid of change or to break the norm. They had dignity and character and fought for what was right and just.

I wonder, what they would have scored on any of our assessments today, from PARCC, to MCT, to MAPS, and would their score really matter? Would they have been great anyway? The answer is yes, but moreover, they would have reminded us of what is truly important to learn in life cannot be measured by a test.

Abraham Lincoln said to the nation that, "in the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years." With that, I want us to know that it is our responsibility to educate the entire physical and emotional well-being of the child. Test scores are only a small part of their education.

Moreover, this is a partnership between parents and teachers. Parents have a responsibility with the education of the children. It cannot be left up to the school alone; and, in the same way, the parent cannot be left to educate the child alone.

What inspires greatness is parents and teachers along a person's way, who demand the very best out of individuals. That includes character, determination, work ethic, and service. If a person has those characteristics, they are primed for great things. Therefore, parents and teachers alike are charged with the education of our children. Who knows, they may inspire a nation!



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

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Nickles of Pelahatchie signed to play soccer at East Central CC



Carolyn Nickles of Pelahatchie signed to play soccer at East Central Community College in Decatur. Shown, front row from left, Lauren Nickles, an 8th grader at ERA, Charles Nickles, Carolyn, and Inca Nickles. Second row, from left, Assistant Soccer Coach Dr. Devin Morris and Head Soccer Coach Rod Delaney. (Photo by Susie A. Wolfe)

Pelahatchie students graduate from Hinds Community College in December

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

Hinds Community College graduated more than 800 students in one of three ceremonies on December 18 at the Muse Center on Hinds' Rankin Campus.

Hinds conferred more than 1,300 credentials, including one-year career

certificates or two-year technical certificates, for career-technical programs or associate degrees.

Some students received more than one credential. Pelahatchie graduates included: Devin Black, Tara Crawford, Leslie Gilmore, Jennifer Hayes, Cori Pilgrim, Robert Snow, and Linda Sarrett.

East Rankin Academy cross country wins in MAIS State Championship



Last November, the East Rankin Boys Cross Country Team won 2nd place overall in the MAIS State Cross Country Championship. Team members include, bottom row, left to right: John Thomas White (Pelahatchie), Ethan Crain (Forest), Back Row, left to right: Ethan Reiss (Forest), West Winstead (Pelahatchie), Will Blossom (Pelahatchie), Coach Steven Boozer, Thad Webb, (Pelahatchie), Brock Tullos, (Pelahatchie) and Charlie Parker (Pelahatchie). (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Estep signed to play softball with Meridian Community College



Elora Estep of Pelahatchie signed to play softball with Meridian Community College. Shown in January at East Rankin Academy signing the scholarship are, front row from left, Kira Estep, Tiffani Estep, Elora Estep and Tony Estep. Second row, from left, coaches Trey Bayliss, Seth Cheatham, Trudy Dawkins, Ken Self with Mississippi Elite, Jason Parkman and Athletic Director Dan Davis. (Photo by Susie A. Wolfe)

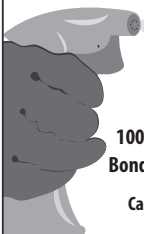
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FINANCING AVAILABLE

continued from page 1

Multicraft renovates downtown house as international headquarters and meeting center

as much of the original walls, floors, windows and chimneys as possible.

"The space has an old world feel with all the modern conveniences," said Mallinson. "The floors are better than original. Plus, we have 24/7 state-of-the-art security system, and every technological devise-- internet access, Nest climate control smart system and Sonos music."

Multicraft has already used the new space for holiday gatherings, but will be able to hold receptions for 100 people or a dinner for 50 in the future. Mallinson also hopes to have an office set up there soon.

"The company and our people represent themselves well in Pelahatchie," Mallinson said.



The renovated white house, left, located next door to Fairway Food Store, is now the headquarters for Multicraft International. The top, right photo shows the conference/meeting area where teleconferences can be held. The bottom, right photo shows the entry hallway where visitors are able to see some of the original components that were incorporated in the renovation, like original glass panes and wall panels were removed. (Photos by Susie A. Wolfe)

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT DIRECTORY

Image special to The Pelahatchie News



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Mayor Ross details work-in-progress around the town

By: Susie A. Wolfe

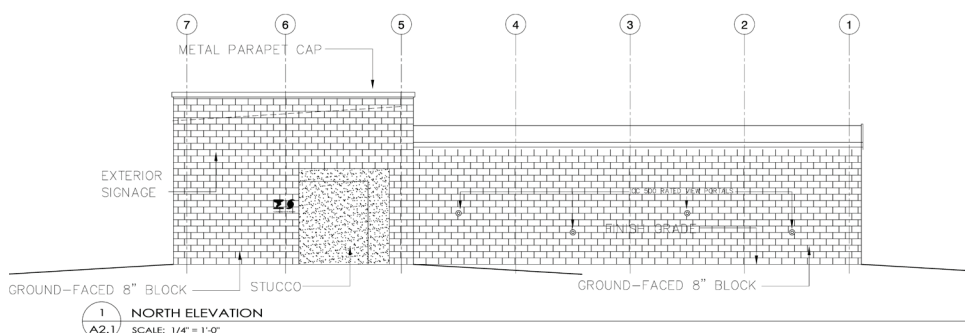
Mayor Knox Ross and the Board of Aldermen discussed and approved a number of projects in its January meeting. The mayor reported that the plans for the safe room at Milltown Park had been sent to FEMA for final approval.

There is also a five-year, three-phase plan to rehabilitate sewer lines, water tanks and water wells in the community. Senator Thad Cochran helped with an EPA federal earmark, according to Ross, that will improve equipment as regulated by new standards. Ross said he is working with government agencies to mitigate as much cost to taxpayers as possible for the long-term project, and meet needs

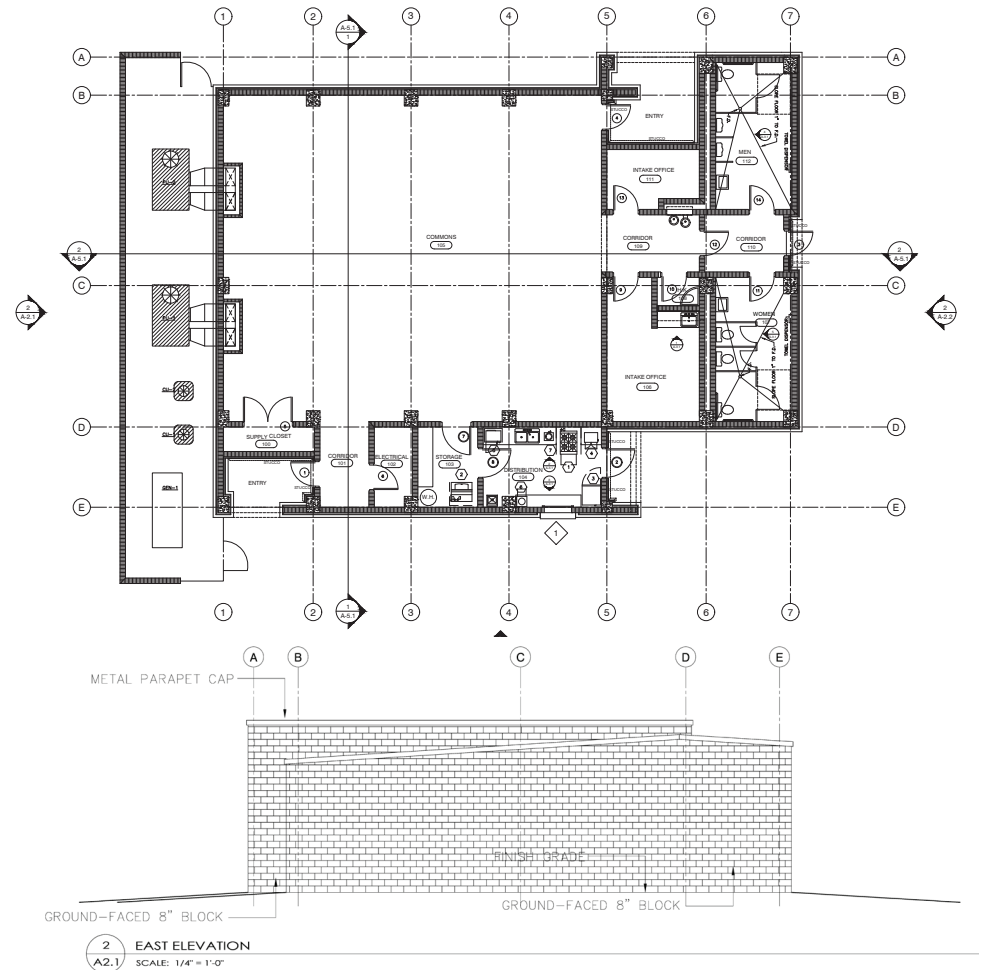
for years to come.

Ross also reported that the town was awarded a \$150,000 small municipalities grant from the State to make improvements to Muscadine Park. There will be a Circle of Champions where the wood playground used to be, which will give the town a more permanent way to commemorate school championships.

He said schools involved through the years include the Crossroads Bear Cubs, the McCall Braves, East Rankin Academy, the Pelahatchie Chiefs and, the team pre-1959, called the Demons. He also wanted to ask everyone in the area that they not throw out any kind of school memorabilia. Take any items to City Hall.



The latest plans for the community safe room at Milltown Park are shown in these graphics. The plans have been submitted to FEMA for approval, after which the town will move forward with preparation for bidding. The floor plans for the storm shelter include rest rooms. The bottom layouts are exterior views. (Images special to The Pelahatchie News)



Pelahatchie School warms hearts with Annie Jr. play



Pelahatchie High School, Junior High and Elementary performed Annie Jr. on Thursday, Jan. 28, and Friday, Jan. 29. The students, faculty and professionals volunteered their time, and spent months practicing lines, music and choreography. The production team includes: Lana Mize, Vicki Mercier, Cynthia Stuart, Sheila Sharplin, Micala Tardie, Jennifer, Harris and Robby Scucchi. The cast included the following students: Addison Archie, Katie Bayliss, Morgan Boyd, Ashley Cannon, Leah Kathryn Carter, Michelle Chancey, Avery DeMuth, Collins Doster, Maleigh Edwards, John Jason Gill, Maggie Gilliam, Levi Goldman, Sydni Goldman, McKinley Goodin, Gracie Grogan, Madi Holmes, Madison Keeton, Macy McCamon, Haley Mills, Camden Patton, Tabitha Phillips, Revonda Renfrow, Payton Sanders, Cooper Scherer, Olivia Sirmon, Zach Trest, Ella Tucker, Chloe Walters, Jordan White and Kaitlyn White. (Photos special to The Pelahatchie News)

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Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tree give-away at Rankin County Soil and Water

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

The Rankin County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold a tree give-away on Thursday, Feb. 11, 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. The types of trees to be given away are White Flowering Dogwood,

Persimmon, Sugar Maple, Redbud, Black Walnut, White Crape Myrtle 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.

AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

Preschool Bedtime Story Time - Come in your PJs for story time!
Thursday, February 25, 7:00 p.m.

Adult Book Club - Wednesday, February 17, 9:30 a.m. - Discussing
Ace Atkins' novel *Dark End of the Street*

K-12th Grade - Ballots available to vote for Magnolia Book Award
in February.

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Pastor's perspective: Be my Valentine



By: John Vaughn, Pastor,
Cross Roads Baptist
Church in Pelahatchie

February is sometimes referred to as "the month of love" because Valentine's Day is on the 14th. There are a number of legends and myths about how Valentine's Day got started. One of the most popular says that there was a priest in Rome named Valentine when Claudius II was the Emperor. Claudius was having difficulty getting young men to join the army because many of them were getting married and did not want to leave their families to go off to battle. So, according to the legend, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome.

The good priest Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, he was sentenced to death. But, while in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl, who may have been his jailer's daughter, who visited him during his confinement. Before his death on the 14th day of February, it is alleged that

he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine." (Does that sound familiar?)

The day was first associated with romantic love when Geoffrey Chaucer included it in his writings. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering candies, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines").

Valentine's Day is now celebrated in many countries around the world. In the United States, it is estimated that 150 million cards will be exchanged for Valentine's Day this year. The people who receive the most cards are teachers! Cards are the most popular gift for Valentine's, followed by candy and then jewelry. An estimated 6 million couples will get engaged on Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day is an economic boon for retailers. Some 20 billion dollars are spent on gifts. That works out to an average of about \$130.00 for every person in the United States. (When I shared that statistic with my wife, she said, "Well, if that's true,

you're an under average giver, then!")

There are some interesting Valentine's Day customs in South Korea. On February 14, the women give gifts of dark chocolate to the men in their lives, including their husbands, sons, employers and friends. Only men receive chocolate on Valentine's Day! Then on March 14, men return the kindness by giving white chocolate to each woman he had received chocolate from in February. March 14 is known as White Day. Of course, there are always men and women who don't receive any chocolate on their days. So, on April 14, all those who did not receive chocolate on Valentine's Day or White Day get together at restaurants for a meal of white beans over dark noodles!

The Apostle Paul wrote about love in I Corinthians, chapter 13. Here are some of his words from the Message, "If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a moun-

tain, 'Jump,' and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies."

Of course, the ultimate expression of love was when Jesus died on the cross. He did so to demonstrate His love for all mankind. All those who follow Him experience that love.

Be sure to show your love for Him by taking your family to church on Sunday!

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Jean Ross has seen Pelahatchie grow through the last 70 years

By: Susie A. Wolfe

Jean Ross has lived in Pelahatchie since she married native son Knox Ross, Sr. in 1947. She hasn't wanted to live anywhere else.

This summer, she celebrated her ninetieth birthday with a party at Town Center, and everyone in the community was invited. Ross said she loves the people in Pelahatchie, and has for almost 70 years.

Her pastor, Rev. Guy Hughes, said that Ross is an inspiration. She taught the Ruth Sunday School class for many years; and, ten years ago, she created a weekly knitting group that, in addition to knitting for personal pleasure, creates prayer shawls for church members and their immediate families who are recuperating from various illnesses. This group of 8-15 ladies has found this to be a ministry for themselves, as well as for their recipients.

"I have never seen her down in my seven years in town," said Hughes. "She is a very faithful member of Pelahatchie Baptist Church, and seeing her in the sanctuary inspires me and many others. She always has a positive outlook."

After finishing school in Magee at

sixteen, the former Jean Horn attended Mississippi College, where she received a Bachelor's degree in microbiology at age nineteen. She then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned a Master's degree in public health education.

She speaks highly of her "adventure" in North Carolina, but said she was eager to get back to Mississippi to work with the State Board of Health, where she served as a public health educator for



Jean and Knox Ross, Sr. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



The Nifty Knitters of Pelahatchie Baptist Church knit scarves for members or family members. From left, Gert Garmon, Jo Ann McPhail, Joy Carpenter, Margaret Clay Davis, Jewel Carter (standing), Helen Smith, Colleen Bolin and Jean Ross. (Photo by Susie A. Wolfe)

many years.

She met her future husband at Mississippi College, but they didn't marry until after he returned from serving with the Marines in World War II. Her home is full of keepsakes he received while in Japan.

Jean Ross was one of five children and, Knox, Sr., who grew up in Pelahatchie, was also one of five children. His

brother, Jim "Buck" Ross, served Mississippi as Agriculture Commissioner for many years.

Ross fondly recalls days going to the movie theater in Pelahatchie in the 1950s or taking their children to the lake every day in the summer. She said the Methodist Church on Church Street was built after she moved here.

The clothing store, Knox's, formerly Ross Clothing Store, was owned and operated by Jean and Knox. She drew on her experiences of working in similar store that her father operated in Magee.

She can show you the houses she's lived in, and recall where others lived, too. She remembers Jack Rhodes, from Rhodes & Robby Drug Store, when he was two-years-old, and lived next door.

"Miss Jean is truly a treasure to the town," said Police Chief Glenda Shoemaker. "She is a wonderful human being." Many others who know Ross agree.

Knox and Jean raised their family here, and their son, Knox, Jr. is the town's mayor. She and her husband also had three daughters, Barbara, (Huntsville, AL); Deborah, (Tupelo); and Rebekah, (Brandon). Jean has ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren, with three more greats on the way.

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Business Spotlight: Fusion Martial Arts trains the mind, body, heart and soul

By: Susie A. Wolfe

"If your only experience with martial arts comes from television or movies, you may believe that it promotes violent behavior," said new Fusion partner and instructor Leslie Trigg. "But, the opposite is true. Martial arts is about the development of a balance and disciplined life that respects and honors those around you."

Leslie, and his wife Angela, have been students of lead-in owner Billy Rials. Both have a black belt now, but were students five years before becoming instructors. Their goal for the future is to one day open another branch in Rankin County.

Trigg said that martial arts is more than kicking and punching. Children four to seven, "little dragons," start with developing motor skills in a fun environment, and work their way up.

"The skills one learns has sufficient impact in all areas of life - home, school, work, and play," said Trigg.

Martial arts is about training the total person - mind, body, heart, and soul, said Trigg. The benefits include:

1. Encourages physical activity and healthy living. (A great way to exercise no matter your age or physical condition.)

2. Improves coordination and motor skills.

3. Develops the skills of focusing and listening. (A great help in the classroom. There can be improvement in students' grades because they have learned to focus and listen at school.)

4. Students learn to set and achieve goals (...as they seek to reach their next color belt.)

5. Memorization and retention (students develop the means to memorize and, ultimately, retain information. This has proved helpful for students as they prepare to study.)

6. Develop respect for others. (Students are taught to respect others no matter their age or position in life.)

7. Develops self-confidence (Confidence comes with achievement. As a student learns a new skill or move, his/her confidence is increased.)

8. Develops method and means for self-defense (Self-defense is taught as a regular part of the adult class.)



Fusion students learn the techniques of martial arts. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

There are tests every three months to gauge progress, said Trigg, and Fusion will begin a new cycle in February. For more information, call 601-759-1123, visit Fusion's Facebook www.facebook.com/fusionma, or stop by the studio at 503 Second Street.

Fusion's class schedule is: Junior Class (ages 8-13) is Monday and Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Adult Class (ages 14 - up) is Monday and Thursday - 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and Little Dragons (ages 4-7) is Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

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