

Christmas giveaways in Chief Glenda's honor

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Pastor's perspective: Being thankful

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NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

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RCSD missed "A" rating by 1.7 points; Pelahatchie schools get "B" rating

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County School District (RCSD)'s accountability score was a "B," while Pelahatchie High School (PHS) and Pelahatchie Elementary (PES) also received "B" ratings, according to the Mississippi Department of Education A-F accountability system that evaluates how schools and districts performed in the 2016-17 school year.

RCSD's score decreased from the "A" it received last year by 1.7 points. The totals for the state include 15 "A" districts, 43 "B" districts, 43 "C" districts, 36 "D" districts and nine "F" districts. Both Pelahatchie schools moved up from a "C" last year.

As the state's third largest district with 19,500 students, RCSD has 28 schools and 176 National Board-Certified teachers, more than any other district in Mississippi, and among the

highest in the nation. Last year, the graduation rate was 86.7% and the graduating seniors received \$43 million in scholarship offers. The Third Grade Gate passing percentage was 95.8%.

According to RCSD Superintendent Dr. Sue Townsend, "As number 16 out of 146 districts in the state, the Rankin County School District takes pride in our history of being high performing, with many outstanding accomplishments. Our students and teachers are defined by all of their successes rather than by the 1.7 points that separates our district from an 'A' rating. The Rankin County School District will continue to provide the best opportunities for our students and teachers."

The accountability system factors in

how well students perform on reading, math, history and science proficiency; reading and math growth of all students; reading and math growth of the

lower 25%; graduation rate; college readiness based on ACT scores for English language arts (ELA) and reading, and math; acceleration by participation and an exam on Advanced Placement, and dual credit/grades. Scores are based on 1,000 total points with the top 10% achieving an "A." Elementary's total is 700 points without ACT, advanced placement and dual credits.

According to Principal Bryan Marshall, some of the initiatives that Pelahatchie High School implemented included ACT Prep; boosting dual credit and advanced placement opportunities largely due to online courses;

and teachers going to school to earn advanced degrees.

"Literacy is the backbone of assessment testing," said Marshall. "If we can teach students to be strong readers and thinkers within the confines of the state standards, then state assessments will take care of themselves."

Currently, Marshall said that with Title Funds, PHS is able to provide online tuition, service fees and books for dual credits free to those that are participating.

"Pelahatchie's got it going on. Our graduation rate is 88%, a little higher than the District," he said. "Our Lexile reading ability scores for high school seniors has had a 200-point gain since they were freshmen, and juniors have a 277-point gain."

"We just need more community and parent involvement, just as we want all our 380 students to be involved in ac-

continued on page 14



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie native recognized by Tougaloo College

Special to Pelahatchie News

Lieutenant Colonel Jason F. Tate, a native of Pelahatchie, was selected as one of Tougaloo College's 40 under 40 at its second annual 40 under 40 alumni awards luncheon Saturday, October 14.

Tougaloo College recognizes a select group of young alumni for outstanding achievement and honors outstanding young alumni who have distinguished themselves by virtue of their accomplishments.

Lieutenant Colonel Tate also recently completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Management from Walden University in July 2017. He is currently the product manager for the United States Army's Counterfire Radar Systems at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, MD. Lieutenant Colonel Tate is married to the former Kandie S. Stovall, of Huntsville, AL. He and wife, Kandie S. Tate, MD, have three sons, Noah Tate (15), Nathan Tate (12), and Nicholas Tate (10).



Special to Pelahatchie News

Lieutenant Colonel Tate is currently the product manager for the United States Army's Counterfire Radar Systems at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, MD.

Lt. Colonel Tate is the son of Joe and Brenda Tate of Pelahatchie. He is a graduate of Northwest Rankin High School.

Jones named Homecoming Queen



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School's 2017 Homecoming Queen was named Oct. 15. Pictured (l to r) are: Theo Davis, brother; Tyra Jones, Homecoming Queen; Jayla Jennings, 2016 Homecoming Queen; Dr. Bryan Marshall, principal; Caelyn Gray, flower girl; and Jaxon White, crown bearer.



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From the desk of the Mayor



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Ryshonda H. Beechem, Mayor of Pelahatchie

Hello, Pelahatchie! We having some exciting things coming up.

The Haunted House and Trunk or Treat was a success; now it's time for Thanksgiving! Make sure as we approach the holiday season, you remember the reason for the season. Spread lots of love around town!

This year, the Town will have a lighting of the Christmas Tree, and you can hang your angel on the tree. Go to City Hall, purchase your angel for \$5 (proceeds go to Milltown Park), write your loved one's name on the angel, and you or your children can hang your angel on the tree on December 9.

There will be Christmas songs

and hot chocolate and more. This is a joyful time of the year! Spread, spread, spread the love and the Word. The Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 2, at 10 a.m.

I would also like to thank everyone that participated in the Trunk or Treat, all the businesses and the residents, and I would also like to thank everyone that volunteered their services for the first time ever haunted house in downtown Pelahatchie. You



Special to Pelahatchie News

all really showed up! Special thanks to Casey Bynum for all her hard work and continued effort to make sure everything was a success. I also want to thank the Pelahatchie Police Department for all their hard work in keeping the town safe.

Chief's Comments: Donated guns



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist Chief Kevin Poole, Pelahatchie Police Dept.

According to Chief Kevin Poole, the Pelahatchie Masonic Lodge #276 donated \$2,000 in firearms to the Pelahatchie Police Department recently. This came from the proceeds of the Crooked Creek Car Show they held earlier this year. Poole said the weapons will be used for off-duty. "This gives the officers the ability to be armed all the time. We thank the Lodge for this well-thought out gift."

Also, thanks to the community and businesses that helped with the Haunted House and Halloween/National Night Out activities. Poole said it was a combination event that allowed the Town to raise money for Milltown Park and to keep everyone safe with Halloween activities.

As the Holiday Season gets under-

way, the Police Department wants to ask everyone to be more aware of drinking and driving. He said that it's not that there are more drunks, it is that more people are on the roads, which gives those drinking and driving a better opportunity to hurt someone.

As it gets colder, watch for the el-



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Lodge #276 donated \$2,000 in firearms to the Pelahatchie Police Department from proceeds from the Crooked Creek Car Show.

derly, and make sure to use safety when dealing with fire places and heaters.

Call 911 with any emergency, as there is a quicker response than calling the station directly.



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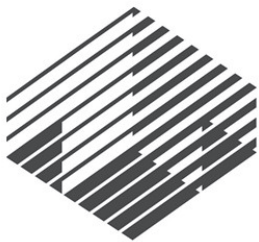
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RCSD recognizes Bradford and Till



Special to Pelahatchie News

Assistant Pelahatchie HS Principal Lewis Bradford and Harrison Till were selected as Administrator and Student of the Month for Rankin County School District in October.

PHS names Beta Club officers



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Beta Club officers for the 2017-2018 school year include Morgan Boyd, president; Anna Grace Carter, vice-president; Hannah Whitney, secretary; and Maleigh Edwards, reporter.



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PHS names Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School's Students for September pictured (l to r), front row, are: Justin Beeman, Madi Holmes, Symon Stringer, ChaRay Johnson, Tiara Collier, and Isabella Atkinson; and back row: Alex Harvey, Trey Atwood, Sammy Goodin, Teacher of the Month, Caleb Davis, McKinley Goodin, Holden Gray, and Chloe Hamilton. Duke's Steakhouse sponsored their luncheon.

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Ambiance Landscape has its roots in Rankin County

By Susie A. Wolfe

Blake Boyer and Brett Denson started Ambiance Landscape, LLC 15 years ago. Today, the family-oriented design build firm has 32 employees that work in four states, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas, on both residential and commercial properties.

"We are growing every year," said Boyer, "and are always adding land designers and trucks. It's more than simply mowing and digging work. It's about doing something that lasts."

Both Boyer, originally from Cleveland, Mississippi, and Denson, from Lena, attended the landscape management and technology program at Hinds Community College, where they met. They worked together at Barnes Brothers in Jackson for two years before starting Ambiance in March 2002. The company handles landscape construction including planting, retaining walls and hardscapes, plus lawn and lawn service maintenance including fertilization and irrigation.

According to Denson, Ambiance's point of difference is attention to detail. "We are passionate about what we do, and care about our customers."

Both men enjoy living and working in a small town, though they work in a



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Ambiance Landscape, LLC supports both Pelahatchie football teams. Boyer's children attend Pelahatchie Elementary and High School, and Denson's attend East Rankin. Showing their colors at a recent tailgate at PHS (l to r) are: Boyer and Denson.

much bigger area.

Boyer's family lives in the Holly Bush area in a log cabin that he built. His wife, Rachael, has a photography business, and is the current Pelahatchie Elementary School's Parent of the Year. They have four children, Katie Belle, 14, Eli, 12, Branch, 7, and Mary Chesney, 2. Denson's family lives in the Barefoot Springs area and "loves Pelahatchie." He and his wife, Misty, have three daughters who attend East Rankin Academy. Kobi is 14, Maddie, 13, and Sadie, 4.

Both families are involved in sports and other activities at their Pelahatchie schools. Ambiance recently had a tailgating tent at the Pelahatchie Homecoming Game in October, where Boyer's mother confessed that her successful son never mowed the yard at his Delta home.

Boyer and Denson say that their company is a Christian company seeking to run a God-honoring business. Boyer said while the most challenging aspect of business is employing skilled labor, the most rewarding is leading others to Christ, which has happened in the company's daily devotion.

For more information on Ambiance Landscape, LLC, visit the web-site, www.ambiancandscape.net, or the company's Facebook page.

Jean Ross visits Mississippi College homecoming

Special to Pelahatchie News

A World War II era graduate, Jean Horn Ross rekindled memories of Mississippi College (MC) at the university's 2017 Homecoming.

A 92-year-old Pelahatchie resident, Jean Ross cherishes all things blue and gold, because of deep family roots at the Baptist-affiliated university. The 1945 MC alumna met her husband, Knox Ross, Sr. on the Clinton campus in the 1940s. Fast forward to 2017. Her granddaughter, Rebecca Ross, is an MC senior and music education major.

MC leaders believe Ross ranks among the oldest grads to attend October 19's 50-Year-Club reception. President Lee Royce welcomed about 70 guests during the annual event at the Gore Gallery.

Ross vividly remembers a Mississippi College campus loaded with Navy men receiving V-12 leadership training. The heavy turnout of Navy guys in white uniforms sparked an enrollment surge in the 1940s.

"I just loved it, and I still do," Ross said in a phone interview from her home in Pelahatchie. "It was such a wonderful experience for me."

Initially, the Simpson County native was bound for Mississippi Universi-

ty for Women in Columbus. But the 1942 Magee High graduate decided to attend a coeducational MC following its merger with all-female Hillman College in Clinton. It was a life-changing decision she never regretted. Ross once lived in the Mary Wyatt Cottage on the former Hillman campus now the site of the city's Lions Club Park.

At the Baptist-affiliated school, Ross played lots of tennis, attended chapel daily, and stayed around campus all week since student cars were banned. She returned home to Simpson County once every six to eight weeks to reconnect with family.

Regulations on the Clinton campus were much different back then. MC women could only wear skirts and dresses. Strict evening curfews in residence halls were enforced for students. While receiving a solid education at the Christian college, Ross got involved in a slew of activities – from class officer to member of the literary society to joining a mathematics organization. Her 1945 MC diploma as a general science major was her ticket to attend the University of North Carolina for graduate school. Knox received her master's in public education on the Chapel Hill campus. She began her career as a health educator in the Delta. But after a



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Jean Ross was one of the oldest graduates to attend Mississippi College's 50-Year-Club at the October 19 Homecoming in Clinton.

few years, She got married and raised four children. Upon moving to Pelahatchie in Rankin County, she ran a clothing business in the Rankin County community.

One of her children, former Pelahatchie Mayor Knox Ross, accompanied his mom to the 50-Year-Club reunion. "She really lived the life so

many women aspire to today."

Mississippi College ties date back to Ross's brother, Lacy George Horn, Jr. who enrolled at MC in the late 1930s. He graduated MC two years before Ross first enrolled in 1942 and became a longtime Vicksburg pediatrician. His wife, Libby Latimer, was a member of the Latimer family of Clinton. The Latimer House at Mississippi College is usually a must stop for MC graduates returning for Homecoming.

Ross stays pretty active as a 92-year-old (she turns 93 on July 17). The Mississippian enjoys attending the annual Muscadine Festival in her hometown of Pelahatchie. Asked about the secret to her long and successful life, she doesn't miss a beat. "The Lord's blessed me."

Knox Ross says MC remains a wonderful college for his mother and now his daughter, Rebecca, a graduate of East Rankin Academy. "We have been very pleased with how well it fits her (Rebecca's) personality and specific needs," he said. "MC has the perfect environment for my daughter."

Mississippi College's ability to help thousands of students build their faith today is one of its most important attributes to grads like Jean Ross. "I loved it and have an appreciation for MC as a Christian school."

Daughters continuing Glenda Shoemaker Christmas giveaways

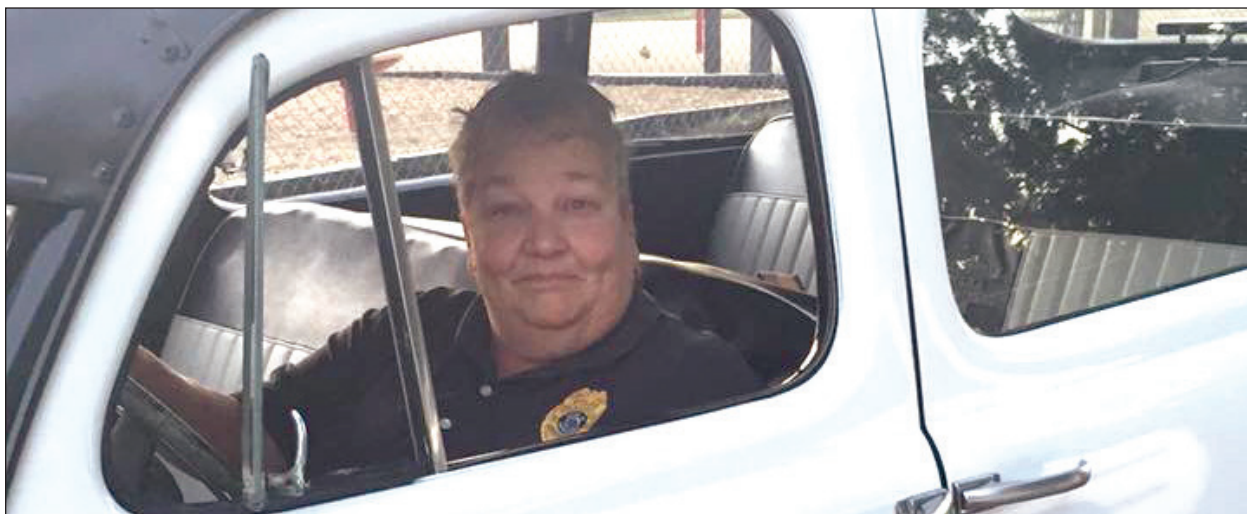
Special to Pelahatchie News

Several years ago, former Police Chief Glenda Shoemaker started a Christmas program for the kids in Town providing Santa gifts and dinners for the families that she thought needed help.

"I plan to keep this going along with other things she started here in the town that she called Mayberry," said her daughter Catherine Poarch. "I appreciate everyone that has helped keep this project alive."

After her death in 2016, the Chief's family continued the program last Christmas by adopting families in her memory during the holidays. As they begin planning for the 2017 season, they

are asking for input on families that need assistance this year. Contact Poarch at 601-278-4054 to notify of families or to donate items or adopt a family. All information is kept confidential. Forms are available at Country Boys Furniture and Appliances on Highway 80.



Glenda Shoemaker served as chief of police for Pelahatchie for 17 years. She passed away in 2016.

Special to Pelahatchie News

We need parents to get involved



By Dr. Bryan Marshall,
Pelahatchie High School Principal

Attention ALL Parents! We need you as we are starting to reform our parent support organization. We have begun our Get Involved Initiative and would like to invite each of you to be a part of this new organization. This organization will NOT focus on fundraising, but rather on ways to support our students, teachers, and parents in a more genuine way.

We truly want each of you to know what opportunities are available for your child and what education looks like inside today's classroom. Many classrooms are very different for the classroom of old in which you and I learned.

The next meeting of the parent organization will be November 7 at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the High School Library and will conclude at prompt-

ly 7:30 p.m. There will be supper provided starting at 6 p.m., so come and have supper on us and #getinvolved.

We have several noteworthy opportunities to mention. One, we are starting an Observe Me campaign in selected classrooms which allows parents the opportunity to setup a time to observe a classroom and see what it really is like.

We also know that many of you have been getting parent surveys, and we want you to complete these. It is imperative that we hear from you as a parent how we are doing so that we may try to improve our services. One particular survey asks for your level of interest in GED and Associates Degree Classes.

We are studying the need for these programs in our community and want to see how many would need or want to take advantage of these programs as parents of students enrolled in Pelahatchie Attendance Center Pre-K-12.

hatchie Attendance Center Pre-K-12.

We are also very proud to announce that the December 9 administration of the ACT assessment will be available at Pelahatchie High School. Slots for this assessment can be applied for through the National ACT website. Registration for the December ACT is

due by November 3, so hurry and get those registrations completed.

Rankin County Research is showing a 4-point gain across the board from the first time a student takes the ACT to the second time they take the assessment. Therefore, go ahead and start looking to sign up for the June 9, 2018 ACT administration, which will also be on campus at Pelahatchie High School.

Remember as we are gearing up for the holidays, that reading over breaks is imperative. Our goal is that every student reach an 1185 lexile by their junior year, giving the student an 80% chance of a 23 or greater on the ACT. This is school specific data but is true to our students. We have just over 100 students that are already meeting college and career readiness benchmarks, so keep up the hard work. Enjoy the Thanksgiving Holidays, and remember to find a way to #getinvolved! GO CHIEFS.

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Pelahatchie High School 2017 Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

The members of the 2017 Pelahatchie HS (PHS) Homecoming Court pictured (l to r) are, front row: Caelyn Gray, flower girl; and Jaxon White, crown bearer; second row: Makayla Minett, Leilani Key, Zharia Holifield, Kanosha Holifield, Makia Lewis, Morghan Hobson, Lanie Burkes, Tyra Jones, Anna Grace Attkisson, Morgan Boyd, and Tiara Collier; and third row: Camden Patton, Collins Doster, Bailey Johnson, Scarlett Castillo, Kimberly Cochran, Aliza Myers, Sydni Goldman, Skylar Varnes, Isabella Rust, Haley Mills, and Maddie Grace Walters.

Pelahatchie Chief Band looking sharp



Photo by Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie Band got new uniforms and scored an overall two at the Copiah Academy Marching Band Competition in October, their second competition.

Pelahatchie Baptist hosts Holiday Marketplace



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Baptist Church will again host Holiday Marketplace in its Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will

be Christmas gifts, Christmas décor, baked goods, canned goods, stocking stuffers and more. \$5 lunches will also be available.

Admission is free. Proceeds benefit the Building Fund.

Multicraft Academy students tour plant



Photos by Pelahatchie News

There are nine students who are part of the Multicraft Innovation Academy made up of John Gandy's PHS Industrial Maintenance class. The group took a tour of Multicraft International in October. Multicraft International President Brad Williams, in red at upper right, is shown explaining the technology of a piece of equipment.

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Banker's Notes: How to Protect Your Loved One from Financial Abuse



By Guest Columnist
Harvey Lott, Vice President,
PriorityOne Bank

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Financial exploitation is one of the most common forms of abuse committed against older Americans.

"Older Americans currently hold more than two-thirds of all U.S. deposits, making them highly susceptible to scams, exploitation and abuse," said Corey Carlisle, ABA Foundation executive director.

To help older Americans and their caregivers protect themselves or their loved ones from financial abuse, the ABA Foundation is offering the following tips:

- Plan ahead to protect your assets and to ensure your wishes are followed.
- Carefully choose a trustworthy person with your best interest at heart to

act as your agent in all estate-planning matters.

- Never give personal information, including your Social Security, account number or other financial information to anyone over the phone unless you initiated the call and the other party is trusted.
- Stay alert to common fraud schemes.
- Never rush into a financial decision.

Ask for details in writing.

- Check references and credentials before hiring anyone. Don't allow workers to have access to information about your finances and make sure to lock up your checkbook, account statements and other sensitive information when others will be in your home.
- Pay with checks and credit cards to

keep a paper trail.

You have the right not to be threatened or intimidated. If you believe you are a victim of elder financial abuse, contact your local Adult Protective Services, tell someone at your bank or call your local police for help.

In 2016, ABA Foundation launched its Safe Banking for Seniors campaign to encourage banks to spread awareness and educate older customers and their families on safe banking practices.

For more information on ABA Foundation's Safe Banking for Seniors initiative, visit aba.com/seniors.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Harvey Lott is a vice president at PriorityOne Bank and is the Branch Manager of the Collins Branch. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi the Mississippi School of Banking at Ole Miss. He is currently attending the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.



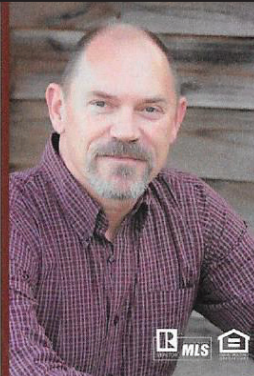
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Blessing of Animals held October 4

By Susie A. Wolfe

Shiloh United Methodist Church and Crooked Creek Animal Hospital sponsored the Blessing of the Animals at Muscadine Park on October 4. It was open to cats, dogs, rabbits, hamsters and fish, and Pelahatchie's event also included a camel from the

local camel dairy.

The event was also a donation point for pet supplies for animals in Puerto Rico displaced during the recent hurricane. More than thirty people attended the first annual Blessing, and brought 400 pounds of food, and donated \$740 to help with the relief effort.



Photos by Pelahatchie News

Residents brought their pets to the first annual Blessing of the Animals held at Muscadine Park.

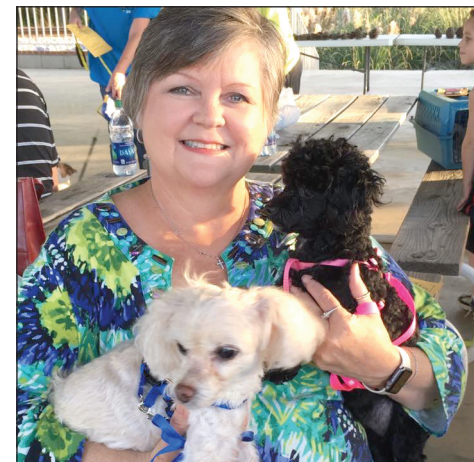


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Christmas in the Country to benefit ERCO



Special to Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

Rehoboth Farms is partnering with Ever Reaching Community Outreach (ERCO), a 501(c)(3) ministry, to conduct a Christmas Fundraiser and Toy Drive.

ERCO has been helping area families for the past five years and desires to expand their outreach this holiday season to assist even more than in the past.

Unwrapped toys can be brought to use for the Christmas Fundraiser and Toy Drive on Saturday, December 2, starting at 3 p.m. at Rehoboth Farms,

where they will be hosting their second annual Christmas in the Country. The toys will then be distributed the following Saturday, December 9, at ERCO's annual "Toy Store" at their Pelahatchie location.

There will also be Christmas carols, bonfires, inflatables, a petting zoo, photos with Santa Claus, holiday photo backdrops, and a fireworks display at Christmas in the Country.

For families in need of Christmas assistance, contact ERCO at 601-665-5720. They are also looking for volunteers for Christmas in the Country and/or the "Toy Store."

Pelahatchie Elementary un"B"elievable!



Special to Pelahatchie News
Celebrating getting a "B" on school ratings are Pelahatchie Elementary fifth grade teachers (l to r): Renea Buynar, Tammy Fletcher, and Chris Stayton.



Special to Pelahatchie News
Pictured in front are: Lauren Harrell and Rebecca Nelson; and back row: Katy Craig and Paige Tucker.



By Guest Columnist Lisa Attkisson, Pelahatchie Elementary School Principal

Special to Pelahatchie News
The faculty and staff of Pelahatchie Elementary celebrated our "B" rating with a "B" luncheon. The menu included Barbecue, Baked Beans, Baked potato salad, Beverages, Brownies, and Banana pudding. The celebration continued with a "B" photo booth, "B"ubbles,

"B"lowers, and "B"alloons. Everyone had a Blast. It was through determination, grit, and perseverance by students, teachers, parents, and administrators that made this level of achievement possible. We will not stop here, but will continue to strive for the next level going from Great to B-B-B-Best. "This B rating makes my heart happy for students, teachers, parents, and this precious community. We will remain focused and work together as a team for our students to continue to grow and to become successful."



Special to Pelahatchie News
Pictured (l to r) are: Lisa Attkisson, Mijia Ward, and Brenna Anthony.

AT THE LIBRARY IN PELAHATCHIE

Puzzle me this! Color me that!

Games, puzzles, and coloring sheets set up in meeting room on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (November 20-22) Stop by with a few friends and play a game, work a puzzle, or color.

Tour the Town exhibit celebrating bicentennial of our state.

Adult Book Club

Wednesday, November 15, 9:30 a.m.
Discussing the novels of Heather Gudenkauf

Call the library (601.854.8764) or visit our website (www.cmrls.lib.ms.us) to register.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Earnest Ferguson	75	Conehatta, MS	9/20/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Mary Jane Moore	75	Magee, MS	9/7/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Bobby Joe Miley	53	Canton, MS	9/11/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Darrell McDonald	27	Morton, MS	9/17/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Dee Wayne Speed	61	Morton, MS	9/19/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Earnest Waltman	78	Lake, MS	9/28/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jerry Williams	47	Lake, MS	9/13/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Robin Leonardo	16 mo.	Forest, MS	10/7/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Mejia Gonzalez				
Frank Warren Mize	90	Laurel, MS	10/6/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
William Carey Thrash	64	Morton, MS	10/16/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.

Be mindful of deer tree stand safety during hunting season



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Most deer hunters in Mississippi know someone who has been involved in a fall from a tree stand. There are many hunters who are now confined to wheelchairs and many others who have lost their lives due to tree stand falls. While the number of firearm-related hunting accidents has dropped dramatically in the past two decades, the number of tree stand accidents has risen sharply.

Even though 70 percent of tree stand falls occur when hunters are climbing up and into the stand or getting down from it, almost the same percentage of hunters don't wear a fall restraint system during this critical time. Failure to wear an adequate fall restraint system is the most important factor in tree stand falls.

What makes a hunter climb 20 feet

off the ground into a \$150 tree stand without any restraint system? It may be the same thing that makes motorcycle riders ride without a helmet. Some people are just willing to assume more risk than others. Maybe it's the same thing that draws hunters to the hardest to get to places.

Another problem is financial in nature. Most people just don't want to spend a lot of money on a fall restraint system. Many hunters will pay thousands of dollars each year to participate in the sport they love. They are willing to spend money on hunting gear, and leases or licenses, but when it comes to climbing safety, that willingness disappears.

Tree stands are a popular and effective method of hunting. However, they also pose significant safety risks. If you choose to hunt from a tree stand, you alone must be responsible for your own well-being. Knowing and practicing safe tree stand procedures can minimize these risk and ensure your time afield will be both safe and enjoyable.

ROTC places fourth



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High JROTC Color Guard finished fourth in an October competition.

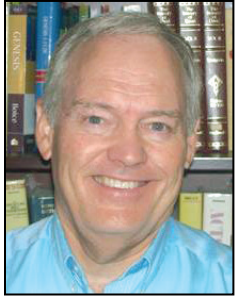
PHS Student Council elects officers



Special to Pelahatchie News

The 2017-2018 Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Student Council is pictured. The following students (top) were elected as Student Council officers: Gabbi Walters, president; Cody Myers, vice-president; Jordan White, secretary; Grace Alman, treasurer; and Olivia Sirmon, reporter.

Pastor's perspective: Being thankful



By Guest Columnist
John Vaughn, Pastor,
Cross Roads Baptist
Church

November is the month that we celebrate Thanksgiving. While being observed in some other countries,

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday. The pilgrims were the first to express thanks to God for His provision and blessings on their lives. That tradition continued, and Thanksgiving became an official holiday for the United States. But through the years, the purpose of Thanksgiving has been lost to many people and now is considered to be simply a time for big meals and ball games. Many people fail to reflect on God's goodness and give thanks to Him for His provision. In fact, there are people in our country who are trying to take God out of Thanksgiving all together.

The Bible has a lot to say about giving thanks. The Psalms are rich with verses that encourage the giving of

thanks to the Lord. Psalm 107: 1-2 tells us to, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story — those he redeemed from the hand of the foe."

This Psalm draws the idea of Thanksgiving back to a personal level, which is where it should be anyway. As individuals, we should do as the Pilgrims did, and take time to reflect on how the Lord has touched our lives and provided for our needs. If we would ponder the Lord's love for us and goodness toward us, we would be more apt to express our thanks to Him. And as Psalm 107 also indicates, we should tell our story.

Every person's story of thankfulness is personal. And if we are serious about giving thanks to God, it helps to write down what we are feeling. One of our members at Cross Roads did that a few years ago. Here is what he wrote.

"As the thanksgiving holiday is approaching, I think about what I'm

thankful for. I'm thankful for the change in me that the Lord is doing. I know the Bible talks about the destruction associated with pride, but I can't help it; I'm proud.

I'm proud to have a God who's so powerful that he delivered me from drinking a case of beer a day to sitting in church on Sunday. I'm proud of a God that has shown me how to forgive the ones that have wronged me, and seek forgiveness from the ones I've wronged. I'm proud that when we lost a worldly possession, I didn't question my faith. I only

questioned if this is where God wants me. I'm proud that God has given me the desire to help others if they need it. I'm proud of my God period. The change I've experienced was pretty simple. All I had to do was get out of His way.

I felt the need to brag on my God this evening." (Michael McCrory)

In the 1970's, Andrae' Crouch wrote "My Tribute," a song that expresses

well why we should give thanks.

"How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me? Things so undeserved, yet you give to prove your love for me. The voices of a million angels cannot express my gratitude. All that I am or ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory, for the things He has done. With His blood, He has saved me, and with His power, He has raised me. To God be the glory for the things he has done.

Just let me live my life, and let it be pleasing, Lord to Thee. And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.

With His blood, He has saved me. And with His power, He has raised me. To God be the glory for the things He has done."

This year, I challenge you to take the time to think about things you are personally thankful for. And write them down. That way, you will be confirming to the Lord that you are thankful. Your story may never be printed in the paper, but God will read it, and bless you for being thankful to Him.

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!



Special to Pelahatchie News

Join us for the 2nd Annual

CHRISTMAS

in the COUNTRY

Celebrate the Joy of Christ, and help bring His Hope to the world

EAT, SING, & FELLOWSHIP

There will be Christmas carols, inflatables, farmyard animals, photos with Santa Claus, food vendors, and a fireworks display to end the evening!

This year we are partnering with Ever Reaching Community Outreach to bring hope & joy to area disadvantaged children on Christmas day. We ask for your help by bringing unwrapped toys for donation.

SAT., DEC. 2ND, 3:00 P.M.

Rehoboth Farms, 337 JC Prestage Road, Pelahatchie, MS 39145

Please visit RehobothFarmsMS.com for more information

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<https://www.facebook.com/YogiOnTheLake>

ERA wins Old Capitol Bowl



Special to Pelahatchie News

On October 5, the East Rankin Academy Government Quiz Bowl team competed in the Old Capitol Bowl hosted by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The team finished first place in the tournament and was declared 2017 Old Capitol Bowl champions. Representing East Rankin Academy in the competition are (l to r): Ethan Crain, Jackson Harper, Kariana Simmons, Andrew Stewart, and Tyler Betts.

continued from page 1

RCSD missed "A" rating by 1.7 points

tivities like clubs or sports. The more involved, the better the student does in school."

PES Principal Lisa Attkisson said that her students did well on the Third Grade Gate Assessment this year with a 98% passage rate.

"That 'B' is believing that we could,

so we did," said Assistant Principal Mijia Ward.

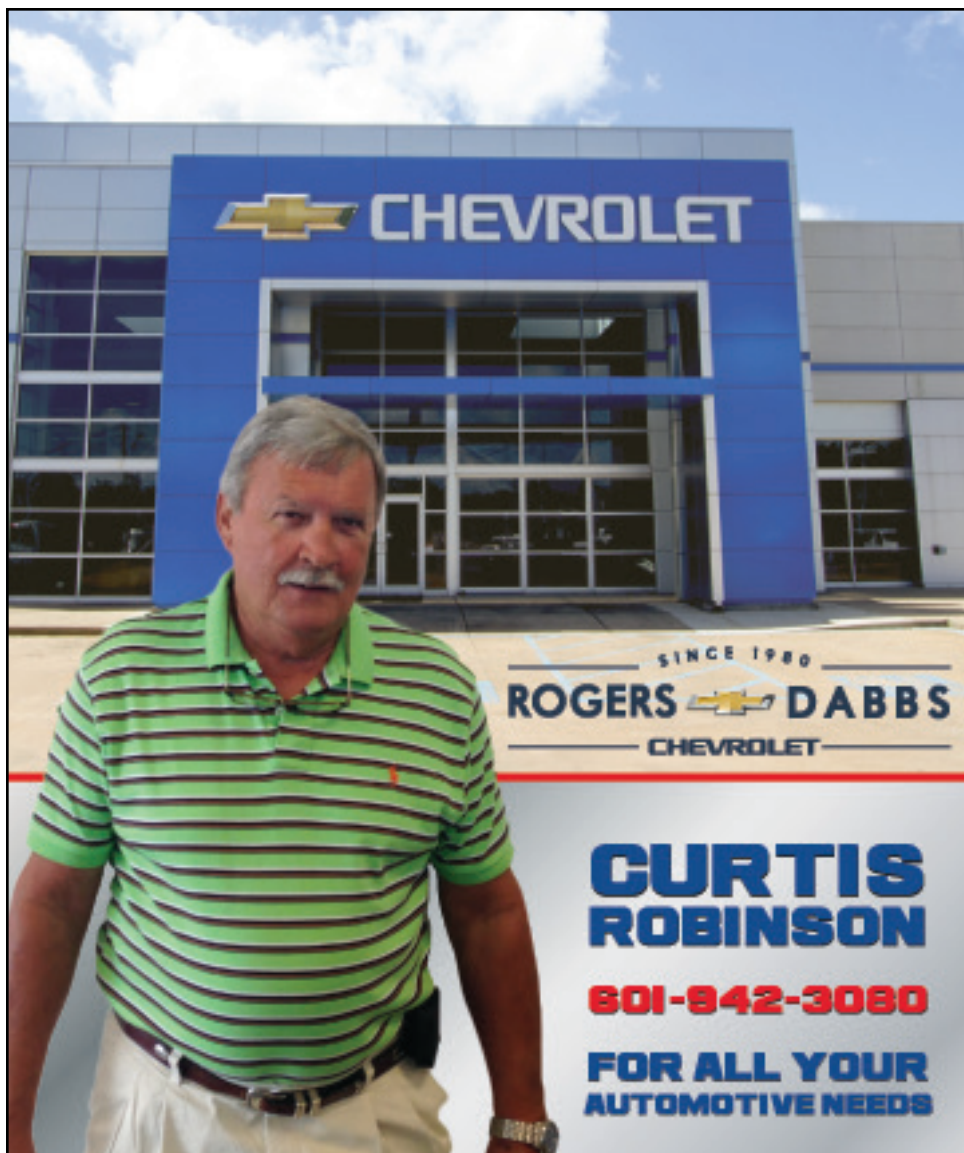
They focused on balanced literacy implementing guiding reading with small reading groups based on the students' reading levels and in that 20-30 minutes targeted specific needs for each student said Attkisson.

ERA 2017 Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) celebrated Homecoming on Friday, October 27. The 2017 Homecoming presentation was made at half time of the game against Pillow Academy. Members of East Rankin's 2017 Homecoming Court pictured (l to r) are, front row: Abi Baggett, Macy Leach, Emilee Tadlock, and Brooke Turnage; and back row: Chloe Wallace, Brooke Cunningham, Taylor Turman, and Dana Watkins.



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SINCE 1980

ROGERS DABBS

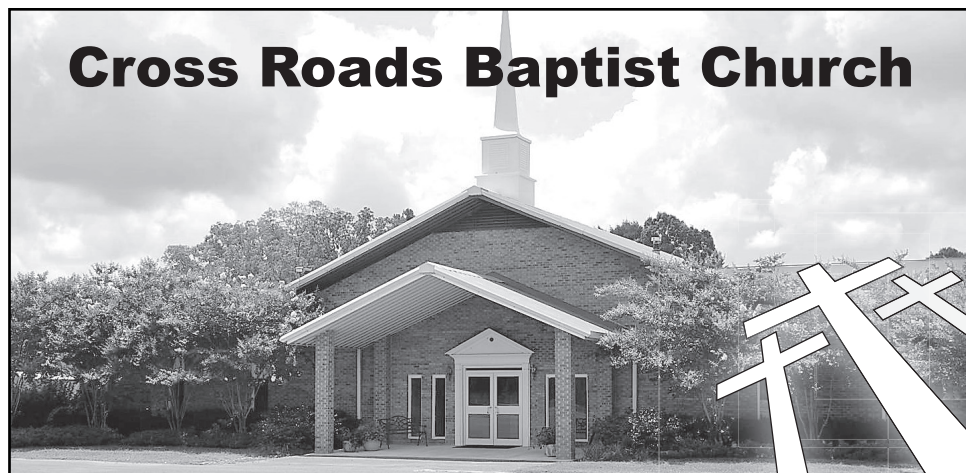
CHEVROLET

CURTIS ROBINSON

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FOR ALL YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS

Cross Roads Baptist Church



Sunday Schedule

8:30 - Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
11:00 - Blended Worship Service
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

104 Crossroads Road • Pelahatchie, MS 39145
(601) 546-2297 • www.crossroadspel.org

Thank a Veteran on Veteran's Day



Joe Hedgepeth, Army Veteran

Special to Pelahatchie News



Wayne Hanson, Army Veteran

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pruett named Eastside Baptist pastor



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pictured (l to r) are the Pruett family: Christian, Wendy, Justin (wife Melissa), Nicole and Leah.

By Susie A. Wolf

Christian Pruett was named pastor of Eastside Baptist Church at the corner of Highway 80 and Noblin Bridge Road in mid-August. Pruett, 42, is a bi-vocational pastor, also serving as director of Distance Learning and assistant professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing. Pruett and his family are from Brandon. He was licensed to preach in August and ordained by Meadow Grove Baptist Church on September 10. He

said God had been tugging at his heart for seven years, and He let him know that it was time to surrender to preach. "Eastside is a very loving church that I plan to help grow spiritually, to expand services in the community and to reach the lost 'making disciples and being the hands and feet of Jesus.'" Pruett and his wife, Wendy, have three children, Justin, Nicole and Leah. They would like to invite everyone to join them for Sunday School at 10 a.m., church at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays, and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

ESTATE SALE

Large two family estate sale. China, crystal, silver, furniture, indoor and outdoor furniture, 100s of knick knacks.

305 church street Pelahatchie
Saturday, November 11, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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FFA group works the Fair



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie FFA group helped set up the FFA Children's Barnyard at the Mississippi State Fair in October. Gabbi Walters and Shelby Sledge showed their beef heifers, and Carmen Hamilton showed goats. Pictured (l to r) are: Kimberly Cochran, Meghan Herrington, McKinley Goodin, Terri Wiltcher, Isabella Atkinson, McKenzie Hester, Bob Robinson, Agriculture Teacher, and McKaylee Hester.

GriefShare holiday seminar set for Nov. 12 at Cross Roads

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.

Sunday, November 12, 2017
2:00 P.M.



Cross Roads Baptist Church
104 Crossroads Road
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
(601) 546-2297

Special to Pelahatchie News

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays is a helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after a loved one's death. The seminar will be held Sunday, November 12, at 2 p.m. at Cross Roads Baptist Church located on Hwy 43S in Pelahatchie. There is no cost to attend.

The seminar features practical suggestions and reassurance through video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays af-

ter their loved one's death. Topics to be discussed include dealing with hard-hitting emotions, what to do about traditions, how to survive social events, and where to find comfort and strength.

Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas, and exercises for daily help through the holiday season.

For more information, call Sheila Bradshaw, GriefShare coordinator, at 601-546-2297 or email crbc_acct@bayspringstel.net.

COUNTRY BOYS APPLIANCE & FURNITURE

Veteran's Day Sale - Nov. 8, 9 & 10

1200 East Second St.
601-759-5037

50% Off All Furn.
Appliances excluded.
Veteran's Sale Only

20% Off Everything Else
Appliances excluded.

Country Boys Hardware 7-5 Mon-Fri, 7-12 Sat
Country Boys Furniture 8-5 Mon-Fri, Closed Sat

Hunting
Clothes &
Supplies

30-Day Layaway until Dec. 20, 2017

