

**Time to celebrate
and recharge**

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food plots**

See page 12

NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

**December
2017**

Volume 6

Issue 12

Pelahatchie, MS

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Pelahatchie News
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Shiloh UMC to present "Journey" December 9 and 10

By Susie A. Wolfe

For the last nine years, Shiloh United Methodist Church (UMC) has presented a two-night "Journey to Bethlehem" and Beyond, a drive-thru trip to Bethlehem and through the life of Jesus. It started as a manger scene before it became a major production that will have an attendance of more than 2,000 people.

This year, the presentation will incorporate some other life events from the life of Jesus, according to Debbie Rhodes, who along with Shirley Wadsworth has been coordinating the event from the beginning.

"Someone has a new idea, and we incorporate it the next year."

The idea came from her 40-member Explorer Sunday School class, where the class planned and implemented



Photo by Pelahatchie News

The Journey to Bethlehem and Beyond is a yearly production by Shiloh UMC that showcases the Life of Jesus from birth to ascension. It is portrayed as the authentic village of Bethlehem.

the production the first two years, but it became too big for that one class. Now, the "Journey" is a church-wide "gift or Christmas card to the community, with hopes that every person that drives through leaves with a glimpse of the love of Christ." All ages participate, and there are teams to help with costumes, food, set design, etc.

Shiloh UMC has a campground that Rhodes said is a "natural setting for the city of Bethlehem." Members look forward to the production every year.

One member said that he gets "such a spiritual experience from participating each year."

It takes approximately 200 people, including men, women and children, to play the characters in the scenes that are set around the church and campground.

Scenes include Joseph with Mary on a

continued on page 3

JROTC finishes second

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Army JROTC Varsity Air Rifle Marksmanship Team recently finished second place in the Rankin County Fall District Marksmanship match. Teams competed across the district in a timed, three-position match. Team members shot their precision air rifles in the prone, kneeling, and standing position. Composite scores were calculated among all team members to determine the highest team scores and ultimately match position ranking.

PHS Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is a program offered to high school students at Pelahatchie that teach cadets character education, student achievement, wellness, leadership, and diversity. Collectively, these lessons motivate cadets to be better citizens, which is the main focus and mis-



Special to Pelahatchie News

The varsity PHS marksman team members pictured (l to r) are: Blaine White, team captain, Maria Banuelas, Jacob Boykin, and Bailey Ferguson, team manager. Not pictured is Cheyenne Myers.

sion of JROTC.

In addition to promoting citizenship, JROTC also prepares cadets for college while providing service opportunities involving school and community.

Homecoming Queen Brooke Turnage



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy Homecoming Queen Brooke Turnage is escorted by her father, Edmund Turnage.

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From the desk of the Mayor



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Ryshonda H. Beechem, Mayor of Pelahatchie

A kind word can go a long way. Treat people how you want to be treated. Love ye

one another. Give expecting nothing in return. This holiday season let's put forth our best effort in spreading holiday love and cheer!

Happy Holidays! Bring in the New Year with a smile! None of these things cost money. Check on your neighbors during the holidays! Love you all!

Walters FD hosting Breakfast with Santa

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Walters Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting their annual "Breakfast with Santa" on December 9 from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, and milk. Plates are \$5 each.

Bring your camera and get pictures with Santa. Walters Fire Department is located at 125 Walters Rd., Pelahatchie.



Chief's Comments: Training is key



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist Chief Kevin Poole, Pelahatchie Police Dept.

This past month, the Pelahatchie PD saw two men graduate from training academies in order to serve the Town better. We have good people and are proud of their accomplishments.

Justin Stevens, a Pelahatchie native, is the first person the PPD has sponsored at the Academy. He graduated from the Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy in Moorhead in November. After the 12-week course work of physical, drug identification, state statutes, courtroom, and driving, Justin received two recognitions: the Road Warrior Challenge certificate, and for running five miles in under 50 minutes. Twenty-four of the original 42 that entered the training graduated.

Justin, a 2008 Pelahatchie HS

graduate, has been working toward this goal for six years. He started as a reserve officer, then became a dispatcher, then dispatch supervisor, patrol officer and now a certified law enforcement officer.

Karl VanHorn, Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department's chief, graduated from the Simpson County Law Enforcement Officer Training Academy



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Justin Stevens, left, is shown with Police Chief Kevin Poole. He is now a Certified Law Enforcement Officer.

my in November. He will be a reserve officer after getting the certified part time certificate. He received the highest academic award in the 10-member class.

VanHorn is a captain at the Flowood Fire Department in addition to his PVFD and PPD duties.



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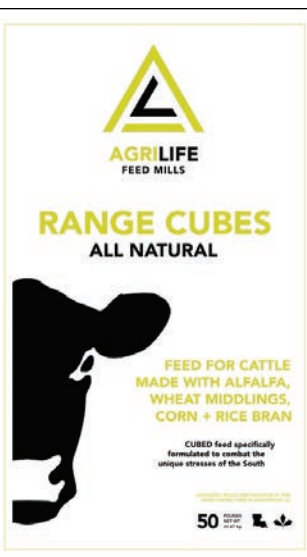
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2017 East Rankin Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

2017 ERA Homecoming Court pictured (l to r) are: flower girl Brantleigh Woitt and crown bearer James Wade; front row: Brooke Cunningham, Dana Watkins, Chloe Wallace, and Taylor Turman; and back row: Macy Leach, Abi Baggett, Brooke Turnage, and Emilee Tadlock

continued from page 1

Shiloh UMC presents Journey in Dec.

donkey, the manger with angels, altar with animals, Upper Room, Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus carrying the cross, women at the well and the Ascension. Other scenes around the campground that make the time period more authentic include a carpenter, shepherd with animals including a camel, blacksmith, census taker, tax collector,

empty tomb, wise men, temple and an inn.

The drive-thru is set from 5:30-8:30 each night on Saturday and Sunday, December 9-10. It takes 10-15 minutes to drive through once a car enters the presentation area. The performers stay in character throughout the drive that draws bigger crowds each year.

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Herron to compete in Las Vegas barrel race

Special to Pelahatchie News

A Pelahatchie girl will get to race among the stars in Las Vegas in December. Karlie Herron will be one of 120 cowgirls competing at the KK Run for Vegas/JrNFR Barrel Race, set for Dec. 12-16 in Las Vegas. The event will be held in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo, the sport's grand finale.

"This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by these kids, and they have all earned the right to compete in Las Vegas," said Kelly Kaminski, the event's organizer and a two-time world champion barrel racer in the Women's Professional Rodeo Association.

"Each of these kids will be competing for over \$130,000 in cash and prizes and a chance to earn a qualifying spot in The American Semifinals next February in Fort Worth."

Each competitor will run the cloverleaf pattern twice, and the top 20 girls with the fastest two-run cumulative times will advance to the championship round. The girl with the fastest average time also will win an Exiss trailer.

"These are all kids 16 and under,

and they come from all across the country, Mexico and Australia," said Kaminski, a five-time NFR qualifier who also was a two-time reserve world champion. "This is a great opportunity for these girls."

The KK Run for Vegas/JrNFR Barrel Race is one of the most prestigious youth Western events in the country, and only the top qualifiers have earned the right to compete.

"This is a very exciting time for every child, every family that will be part of it," said Kaminski. "As a former teacher, I've always wanted to be involved with kids, and this is a great way to tie rodeo and kids together in a championship format."



Special to Pelahatchie News

Karlie Herron will be in the KK Run for Vegas/JrNFR Barrel Race in Las Vegas on Dec. 12-16 competing for over \$130,000 in cash and prizes.



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2017 SOCCER CALENDAR

www.rcsd.ms/Page/26574

11/6/17	JIM HILL	AWAY	5:30 G 7:00 B
11/9/17	LAWRENCE COUNTY	AWAY	5:30 G 7:00 B
11/11/17	MAGEE	AWAY	11:00 G 12:30 B
12/2/17	*MCLAURIN	AWAY	11:30 G BOYS TBD
12/4/17	LAWRENCE COUNTY	HOME	5:30 G 7:00 B

Bailey honored at MSH



Special to Pelahatchie News

Mississippi State Hospital recently honored employees with November anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital. Leah Bailey of Pelahatchie celebrated her one-year anniversary. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Sharon Sanders, Byram, one year; Tiara Barnes, Brandon, one year; Shaeffer Anne Williams, Pearl, one year; and Mary Lynn Bankester, Madison, five years; and back row: Lea Bailey, Pelahatchie, one year; Denise Rogers Jackson, twenty-five years; and Clifton Clincy, Jackson, one year.

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Local leader helps deliver community banking voice to nation’s capital

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Independent Community Bankers of America® (ICBA) announced that local community banker Robert J. Barnes, President and CEO of PriorityOne Bank, was elected to the ICBA Federal Delegate Board. ICBA is the nation’s voice for community banks.

"I am honored to be elected to this position," Barnes said. "It gives me a chance to work for community banks across the country that practice trusted, relationship-based lending and offer hands-on personal service and invaluable financial expertise to local consumers and small businesses."



Special to Pelahatchie News

Robert Barnes was elected to the 2018 ICBA Federal Delegate Board where he will work for community banks.

In addition to helping shape and advocate ICBA’s national policy positions and programs, Barnes’s duties include being a liaison between independent community bankers in Mississippi and ICBA staff and leadership in Washington, D.C. He will also work to recruit new members to ICBA.

ICBA is the only national trade association dedicated exclusively to promoting the interests of locally operated community banks and savings institutions. With trusted financial expertise and high-quality

customer service as their hallmarks, community banks offer the best financial services option for millions of consumers, small businesses, farms and ranches.

"Robbie is a dedicated community banker who is respected by his industry peers," said ICBA Chairman Scott Heitkamp, president and CEO of ValueBank Texas of Corpus Christi, Texas. "We are delighted Robbie will be generously offering his time and valuable professional talents to the service of the community banking industry."

No-Call App debuts to report telemarketers

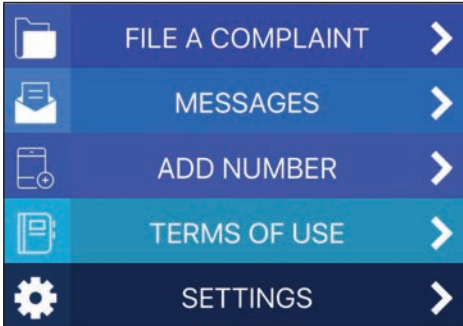
Special to Pelahatchie News

Mississippians who are tired of annoying telemarketer calls and want to fight back have a new weapon in their arsenal. The Public Service Commission recently unveiled their “MS No-Call” App for smart phone users. The app will allow Mississippians to register their landline and cell phones on the Mississippi No Call List and file complaints against illegal callers directly from their phone and at no cost to them.

"We want to empower people by placing a tool literally in their hands to help us get at these predatory telemarketers. This free app was a long time coming, and I know it will revolutionize the way we track down the lawbreakers and shut their call operations down," Chairman Brandon Presley said.

The Commission began development of the app last year to create a faster, up-to-date way to sign up and file complaints, insisting that it be free to all customers to use. "MS No-Call" is available for both Apple and Android devices.

Consumers can download the app in the Apple App Store or Google Play by searching "MS No Call" and instantly be connected to the No Call Database. For more information about Mississippi’s No Call Law, visit www.psc.state.ms.us



Special to Pelahatchie News

or call 1-800-637-7722.

How to file a complaint from a smart-phone:

1. Depending on your device, open the App Store or Google Play and search for the FREE "MS No Call" App.
2. On the home screen of the app, select "File a complaint."
3. Enter your registered number the first time. The app will save your number for future complaints.
4. Enter the telemarketer’s telephone number, and let us know if they contacted you via phone call or text message.
5. Enter the date and time of the communication and select "Next."
6. Answer the questions on the next page, and tell us what the caller was trying to sell you.
7. Submit your complaint.



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History comes alive at Pelahatchie library



By Guest Columnist
Tina Mauney, Branch
Manager, Pelahatchie
Public Library

The Pelahatchie Public Library has had a wonderful response to its request for historic items to display at the library during October, November, and December. Currently on display are photographs, annuals from the late '50s and early '60s, and various other memorabilia. It is not too late to add to our exhibit if you have something you would like to loan for display. The items will be on exhibit through the month of December.

It has been a wonderful thing to watch patrons' enjoyment of our historic array. One patron in particular was excited to see a class picture of the 1961 graduating class of Pelahatchie High School. Her dad graduated in 1961 and at the time was not able to purchase the photo. We happily made her a photocopy of the picture.

Many patrons were interested in the Lessel House photographs. If anyone has a picture of the Lessel House during the years it was operational or photo-

graphs of other old businesses, we would so appreciate the opportunity to scan the photograph. One patron shared that Jimmie Rodgers (in his hobo days) had been known to play outside the Pelahatchie Depot for spare change, and in his railroading days, to eat with fellow railroad men at the Russum House.

An old photograph acquired through Paul Davis, a member of the Rankin County Historical Society, shows an old store named Taylor & Son. After a little searching on the Internet, we found information about the "son," Caleb White Taylor. His obituary from 1911 reads in part, "So long as Pelahatchie exists, his name, his reputation, his work, will remain a precious legacy of the town."

If you haven't yet, we invite you to stop by the Pelahatchie Public Library during December, and if you have any old photographs of the town or historic items, please consider the town museum or the library.



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Lessel House was located beside Rhodes and Robby Drug Store facing the railroad tracks.



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Ibrahim selected for STEM Scholar Program



Special to Pelahatchie News

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Distance Learning Center has selected Arif Ibrahim of Pelahatchie as one of twelve students for its second National Science Foundation STEM Scholar Master's Program cohort. He will receive a scholarship of up to \$10,000 as he progresses through the online master's program.

Time to celebrate and recharge



By Dr. Bryan Marshall,
Pelahatchie High School Principal

It is that time of year, time for spending time with family and celebrating the year. From everyone at Pelahatchie High, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It has been amazing what the students have been able to accomplish in just a few short months. We have started our online newspaper in Mrs. Grice's classroom called the *Hatchie Headlines*. If you haven't seen it, take a look online at www.hatchie-headlines.com.

The weight room is complete, and the student athletes are working out in there daily. The library has purged all the old books and replaced them with new, exciting and

engaging genres, mainly at the students' request, and the circulation is higher than ever before. The monthly student book club has grown and has partnered with the local library and is currently reading *This Is Where It Ends*.

Students are growing exponentially with respect to their ACT scores and Lexiles. Lexiles for the school are up on average 18 points from last month, which is a tremendous feat. Mr. Bradford was honored as the Rankin County Administrator of the Month, Mrs. Kristen Butcher was recognized as the Classified Employee of the Month, Mr. Harrison Till was recognized as Rankin County School District Student of the Month, and Mrs. Grice was recognized as Rankin County Teacher of the Month.

So, as you can see there are a ton of great things going on at Pelahatchie High School! With all of that said, we are looking forward to the holiday break so that we can recharge and be ready for a great second semester. December and January are packed with basketball and soccer games so come out and support our Chiefs and Lady Chiefs. Check out the athletic schedules at www.rcsd.ms under the Pelahatchie High School tab.

Parents, we still need your help with the newly formed Parents of the Tribe organization that is supporting the latest food drive in hopes of taking care of families in need over the holidays.

Each grade of students is in competition with each other, and the grade



Special to Pelahatchie News

with the most canned foods at the end of the day on December 15 will win a movie in the auditorium and pizza that day. So, parents remind your students to bring the cans!

Remember to #getinvolved. The last day before the Christmas Break is a half of a day on December 21. Finally, January 8 is a teacher workday, but the tentative plan is to have parent meetings that afternoon to discuss the newly-formed diploma options that Mississippi State Department of Education has adopted. These sessions will be informative in nature to help everyone understand the changes that are being made to the graduation pathways.

We wish everyone the very best, relaxing, and fun break and as always don't forget to READ! Happy Holidays!

Grice named RCSD Teacher of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Laura Grice was named Rankin County School District Secondary Teacher of the Month for October. She is faculty advisor for the Hatchie Headlines.

October PHS Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie HS (PHS) Student of the Month winners for October are pictured (l to r) front row: Nataliya Garner, Malcolm McGee, Hart Adams, and Jayla Macklin; and back row: Doneshia Johnson, Mrs. Sheree Rayner (Teacher of the Month), Tinly Jo Watkins, Denver Sturgill, and Kacey King. Not pictured are Jacob Jordan, Chandler Rust, Cheyla Munoz-Ramos, and Josh Wilson.

PJH inducts more into Jr. Beta Club



Special to Pelahatchie News

The newly-inducted Pelahatchie Junior High Jr. Beta Club members are (l to r), front row: Nataliya Garner, Kayden Haden, Leah Carter, and Noah Brock; back row: Lake Ward, Nabri Vindel, Nicole Rainer, and Kendall Jones.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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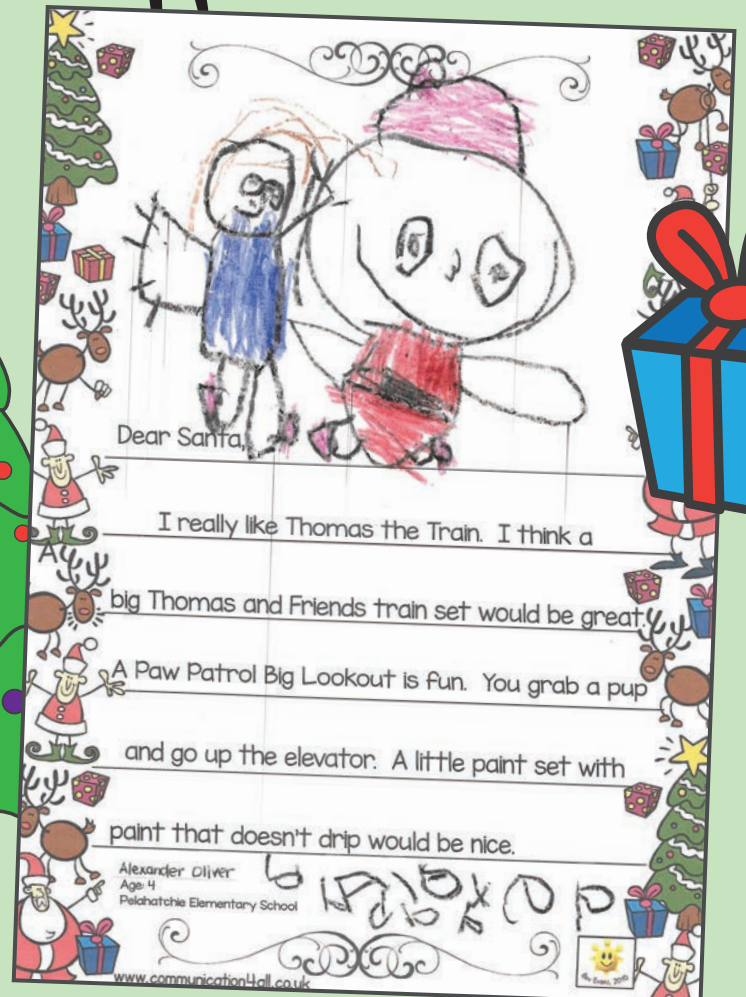
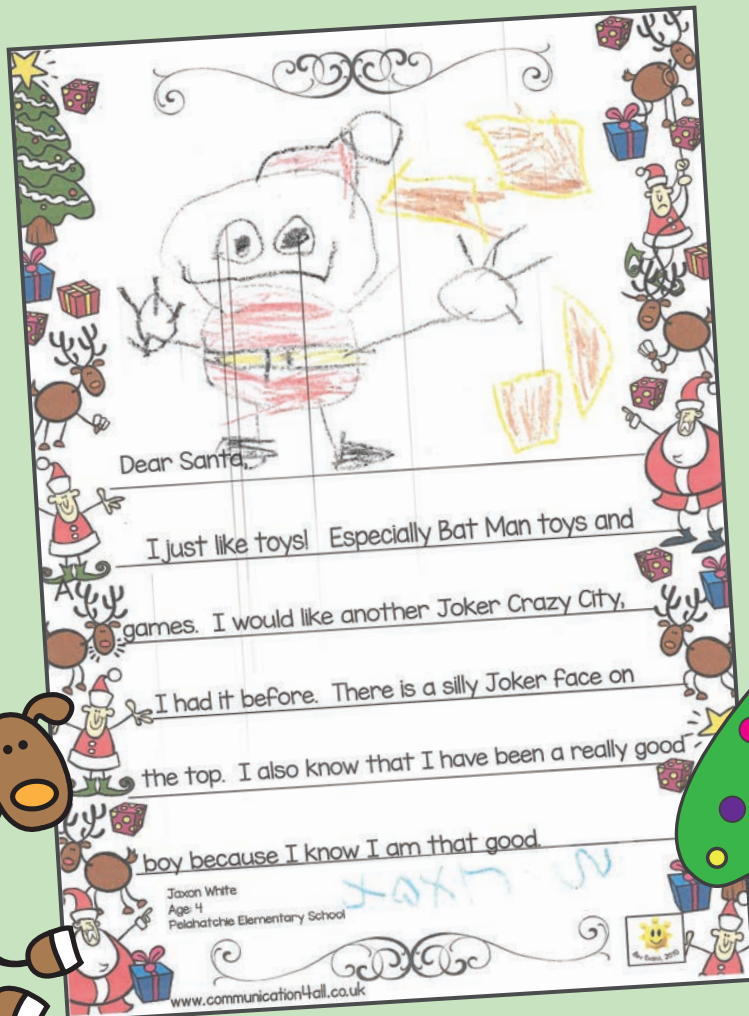
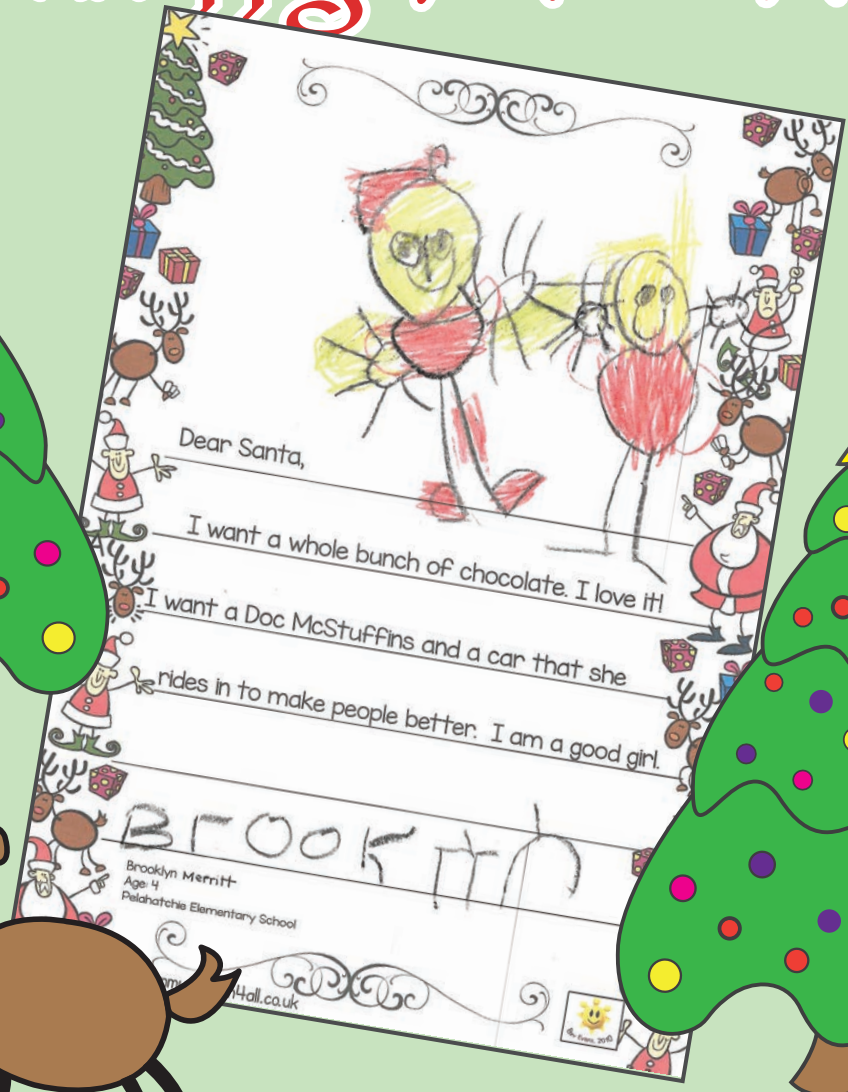
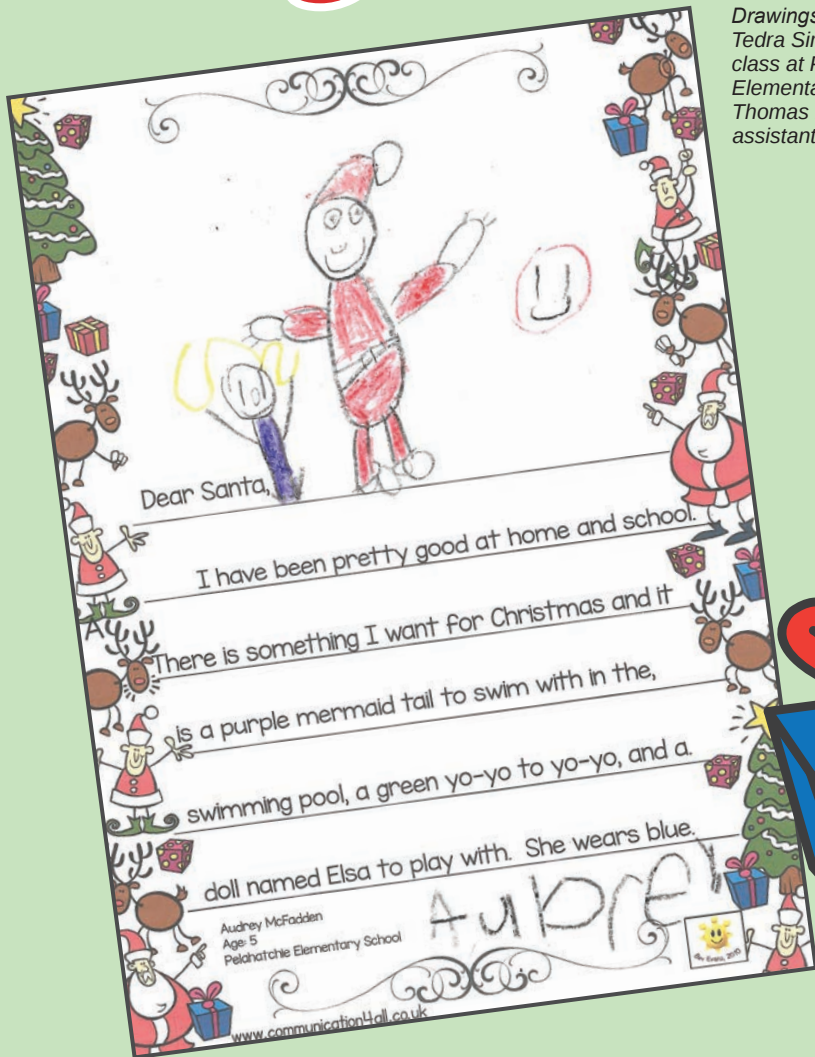
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Drawings from Mrs. Tedra Simon's 4-K class at Pelahatchie Elementary. Sandy Thomas is the assistant teacher.



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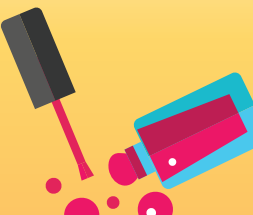
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Angel Club Christmas Dinner set for Dec. 9

By Susie A. Wolfe

Thelma Davis loved giving to people. She hosted an Easter Egg Hunt yearly and a Christmas Dinner for Seniors called Angel Club. Though she passed away this past May, her daughter, Essie Florence, will continue her mother's legacy on the twentieth anniversary of the Angel Club on December 9 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center.



Essie Florence, left, with her mother Thelma Davis.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Seven ways to avoid a holiday spending hangover



By Guest Columnist
Harvey Lott, Vice President,
PriorityOne Bank

Special to
Pelahatchie News

As the holiday shopping season hits the home stretch, PriorityOne Bank has identified seven habits that shoppers should embrace to minimize their holiday spending debt.

"It's incredibly easy to go overboard buying gifts for loved ones during the holidays, but spending within your means will help keep your holidays merry and your finances bright," said Corey Carlisle, executive director of the ABA Foundation. "There are simple things you can do to avoid a holiday spending hangover, like setting a budget in advance and avoiding impulse buys."

Below are seven spending habits Americans should consider to relieve

the financial stress of the holidays:

- **Plan ahead.** Before you start shopping, develop a realistic budget for holiday expenses. Figure out your bottom-line number and set aside holiday cash in increments throughout the year. If you need to use your credit card, think about what you can afford to pay back in January.
- **Keep track of other costs.** Don't forget costs beyond gifts, like postage, gift wrap, decorations, greeting cards, food, travel and charitable contributions.
- **Make and list and check it twice.** Keep your gift list limited to family and close friends, noting how much you want to spend on each. If you're donating to charities, factor in the total amount you plan to donate and how much each charity will receive.
- **Shop early and space out pur-**



Special to Pelahatchie News

chases. Avoid shopping while rushed or under pressure, which can lead to overspending. Make sure to comparison shop online first, or download an app that lets you compare prices before you buy anything in a store.

- **Avoid impulsive spending decisions.** Finding a spectacular sale on something you've been wanting can

easily throw you off course. Stay strong and stick to your budget. Don't be blinded by limited-time incentives geared toward getting you to spend more.

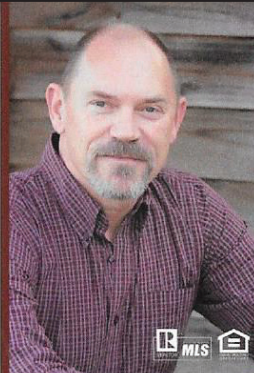
- **Use credit wisely.** Limit the use of credit for holiday spending. If you must use credit, use only one card—preferably the one with the lowest interest rate—and leave the rest at home. Be sure to check statements for unauthorized charges and report them immediately.
- **Save your receipts.** Not only will you need them for possible returns, you'll need them to keep track of what you've spent and to compare with your credit card statement. Knowing how much you spent will help you plan for next year, too. Keeping receipts for charitable donations will help you receive tax deductions in the spring.

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Fertilizing winter food plots



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

With two months left in the hunting season, now is a good time to fertilize your food plots.

If adequate phosphate and potash were applied at planting, nitrogen is the nutrient needed to make plants grow. If a good stand of clover is grown with the grass, nitrogen rates may be reduced, depending on how much nitrogen the clover supplies. (Clovers make their own nitrogen)

A common question is how much and what source of nitrogen to use. This depends on how much growth is desired and what source of nitrogen is available.

The most common sources of nitrogen for cool season grasses include prilled ammonium nitrate, urea, and solutions of ammonium nitrate and urea. In general, when conditions are

right for active growth, each of these sources produces good plant growth. However, a lot of dead inactive grass can contain considerable amounts of the urease enzyme, which can increase volatile losses from fertilizer containing urea. Whether in solid or liquid form, the main need is for enough rain to get the nitrogen into the soil so that it can be taken up by the plants.

Efficiency and cost per unit of nitrogen are other factors to consider when determining the nitrogen source. Ease and cost of application should also be taken into account.

Regardless of the nitrogen source or the method of application, nitrogen is essential in making cool season forages produce at their maximum potential. Also, as always, now is a good time to have soil tests done on your food plots. These test will reveal the pH of the soil and the levels of phosphate and potash present, allowing plenty of time to correct any soil nutrient deficiencies prior to planting summer food sources for wildlife.

FFA wins awards at Newton contest



Special to Pelahatchie News

Future Farmers of America members attended the Newton County Invitational Speech Contest and achieved these honors: Anna Grace Carter (top) first place for senior prepared public speaking; Maddie Grace Walters (lower left) first place for junior creed; and Katie Belle Boyer (lower right) second place for ninth creed.

Deputy visits PES kindergarten class



Special to Pelahatchie News

Deputy Chance White of the Rankin County Sheriff's Department visited Mrs. Simon's pre-kindergarten class in October. His son, Jaxon, is in the class, and he shared with the class all about his job. The students were very excited to take a peek inside his patrol car.

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Margaret Renee Maggard	53	Lake, MS	11/1/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Jimmy E. Ware	83	Newton, MS	11/6/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Gerald Rube Monk	83	Lake, MS	11/7/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Brenda Gail Liles	70	Lake, MS	11/9/17	Wolf Funeral Serv.

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Pastor's perspective: The ABC's of Christmas



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

Special to
Pelahatchie News

Christmas time is here! With wonderful pageants and other presentations, plans for family gatherings, exchanging gifts, special parties and meals, and the anticipation of every child. Of course, Christmas is all about the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. With all the other activities that have come to be a part of this time of year, let us never forget the real "Reason for the Season." I recently came across a poem titled "The ABCs of Christmas." The author was unknown, so I present it here with some minor modifications.

- **A is for Angels**
With halos so bright
Whose carols were heard
On that first Christmas Night
- **B is for Bells**
So merrily ringing
Joy to the world
Is the message they're bringing
- **C is for Candles**
That so brightly shine
To give a warm welcome

- To your friends and mine
- **D is for Donkey**
Who played a role
Bringing Mary to Bethlehem
As he was told
- **E is for Evergreens**
With fragrance so rare
So plentiful at Christmas
Their scent fills the air
- **F is for Fun**
The whole season long
From trimming the tree
To singing a song
- **G is for Greetings**
A merry "hello"
With a heart full of love
For people we know
- **H is for Holly**
With berries so red
To make into wreaths
To hang overhead
- **I is for Ice**
On snow covered hills
Where sledding is fun
Along with the spills
- **J is for Jesus**
The Christ child so dear
We honor his birth
On Christmas each year
- **K is for King**
The title of Jesus
Who ruled in love
And gave His life to save us

- **L is for Lanterns**
I am sure that their light
Helped Mary and Joseph
That first Christmas Night
- **M is for Mary**
Her heart full of love
For her little son Jesus
Who came from above
- **N is for Noel**
The angels did sing
To herald the birth
of Jesus, our King
- **O is for Ornaments**
So shining and bright
With lights on the tree
To sparkle at night
- **P is for Packages**
With ribbons so gay
All 'round the tree
For our Christmas Day
- **Q is for Quiet**
Christmas Eve Night
With snow covered hills
Glistening so bright
- **R is for Revelation**
God showed us His plan
To save all mankind
Through Jesus, the man
- **S is for Shepherds**
Who first saw the star
Over Bethlehem's manger
And followed it far
- **T is for Trees**

- We decorate so gay
Then wait for ole Santa
To hurry our way
- **U is for Universe**
Where Christmas brings joy
To all in the world
To each girl and each boy
- **V is for Visiting**
Friends near and far
We travel by plane
Or by bus, or by car
- **W is for Wise Men**
Who brought gifts so rare
And knelt down and worshiped
The child they found there
- **X is for X-mas**
Or Christmas by full name
No matter the language
It all means the same
- **Y is for Yule Logs**
Whose bright sparks fly high
To give a warm welcome
To friends passing by
- **Z is for Zeal**
We show at this time
In giving to others
And loving mankind

May the Lord bless you and your family this Christmas. Keep your focus on Jesus. He really is the "Reason for the Season." And be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!

Newman signs to play softball



Photo by Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy's Madison Newman signed to play fast-pitch softball with Southwest Mississippi CC. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Laurie, mom; Madison; Amanda, sister; and Bobby Newman, father; and second row: Seth Cheatam, coach; and Jason Parkman, coach.



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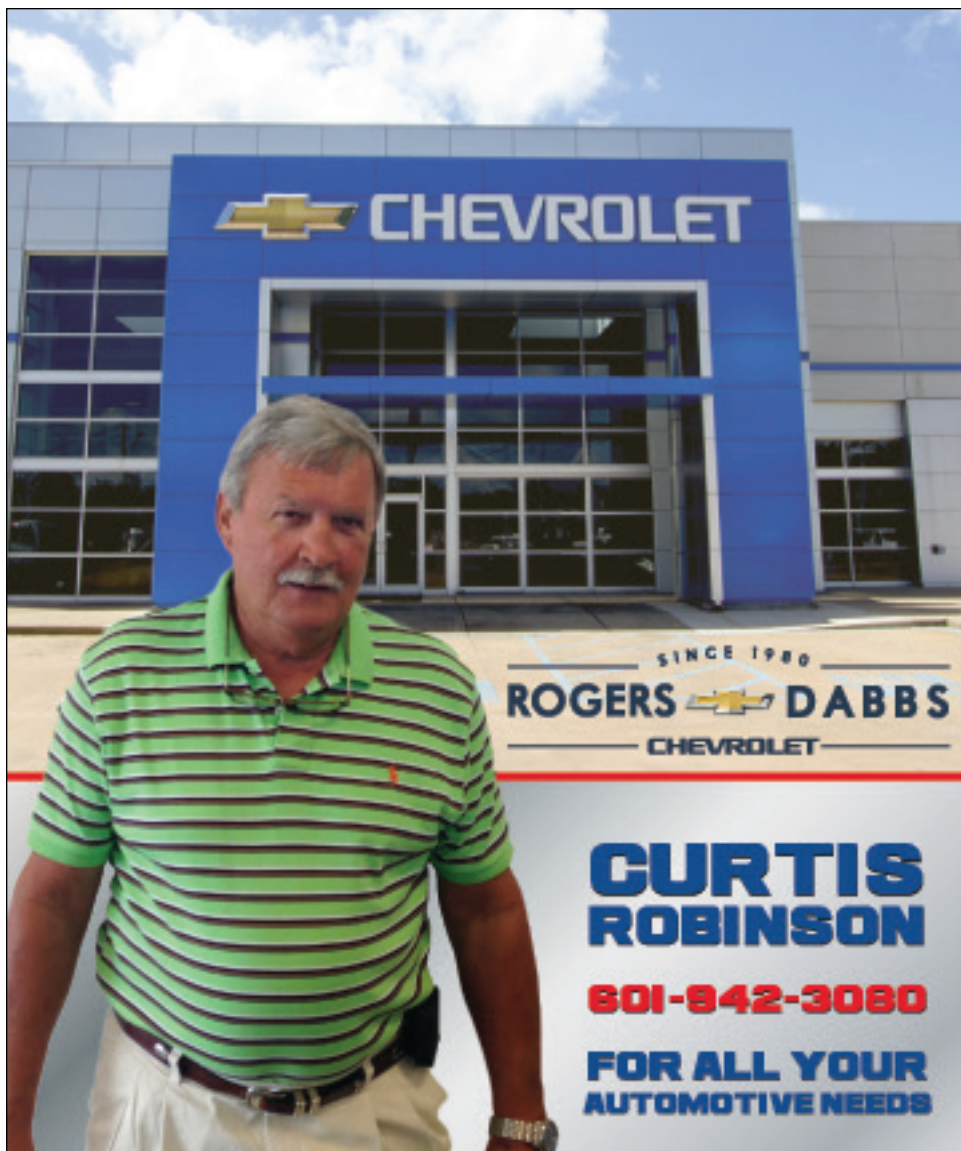
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ERA names student council reps

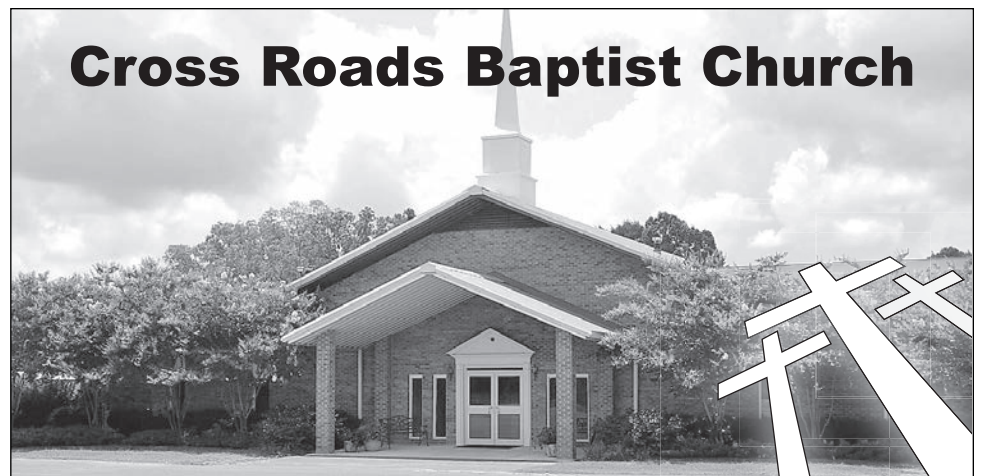


Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy (ERA) Student Council sponsored ERA's Veterans Day Program. Student Council members (l to r) are: Tucker Loper, ninth grade representative; Kealey Bradford, tenth grade representative; Maddie Morgan, eleventh grade representative; Turner Boykin, Student Council president; Lauren Parker, twelfth grade representative; Bailey Tullos, Student Council secretary; and Emilee Tadlock, Student Council vice president.



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

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ERA chess team wins second place



Special to Pelahatchie News

The East Rankin Academy Junior Varsity Chess Team finished second place at the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Annual Chess Tournament. Team members pictured (l to r) are: West Winstead, Carson French, Barron Burnham, and Brandyn Luke.

Caldwell signs with Meridian



Photo by Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy's Hanna Caldwell signed to play soccer with Meridian CC. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Wendi, mother; Hanna; Rod Delaney, soccer coach; and Kelsey Jernigan, asst. coach; and back row: Maddie, sister; Bobby Caldwell, father; and Jonah, brother.

ERA honors veterans with annual program



Photos by Pelahatchie News

East Rankin students honored veterans at the school's fifth annual Veteran's Day Program.

By Susie A. Wolfe

East Rankin Academy (ERA) had between 25-50 veterans at its fifth annual "Salute to Our Veterans" program on November 9.

"We want to, first of all, thank the veterans with the program," said Headmaster Dan Boyce, "and give students a greater understanding of the cost of freedom and the price paid."

In her recognition of the veterans, High School Principal Robyn Winstead said that they wanted to salute the service, honor the sacrifice and let the veterans know that their service is not forgotten.

Ashby Foote was the guest speaker who told the students how the eagle

became the symbol of freedom, and how serving is "something bigger than yourself."

The program included songs, pledges, prayers and student tributes. The K-5 Bell Choir performed "God Bless America," and the fourth grade sang "All-American Me and You" and "You Are Our Heroes." The High School Choir sang the National Anthem, and Lauren Parker sang "America the Beautiful / God Bless America."

After a presentation of veterans in each area of service along with that service's flag, six students in Terra Kirkland's class read their veteran tributes. Student Council representatives also read the poem "In Flanders Fields."

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ERA has 33 in National Honor Society



Special to Pelahatchie News

Thirty-three students are members of the East Rankin Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society. New members for the 2017-2018 school year were honored with an induction ceremony and reception on October 1. Selection for membership is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and service. New members inducted pictured (l to r) are, front row: Cody Batte, Harley Bowman, Turner Boykin, Brooke Cunningham, Kailey Anna Davis, Jackson Harper, and Taylor Hudson; and second row: Daniel Jones, Kayleigh Long, Mollie Macon, Maddie Morgan, Charlie Parker, Claire Reeves, Morgan Rhodes, and Andrew Stewart; and third row: Bailey Thompson, Rachel Thompson, Taylor Turman, Krissy Watkins, Thad Webb, Owen Wolfe, and Josh Yates.

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