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NEWS Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

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Rankin County Sheriff takes over PPD

By Susie A. Wolfe

After the resignation of Interim Pelahatchie Police Department (PPD) Chief Timothy Fikes on October 17, the Rankin County Sheriff's Department stepped in to provide police leadership until the Town of Pelahatchie hires a new chief.

The Board unanimously signed an "informal" letter of agreement to appoint Rankin County deputy Chris Picou as the town's new interim chief. Rankin County Sheriff Bryan Bailey said the assistance will end once the town completes its search for a new police chief, which could take anywhere from two weeks to two months.

Bailey said it's not unusual for his



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Rankin County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Picou will be leading the PPD until a new chief is hired.

department to help out in towns and cities across the county if they are short-staffed, but he admitted he's never been in a situation where his department dispatched one of its own deputies to run the town's police department.

Fikes took over the chief position after Kevin Poole's resignation in July. He told *Pelahatchie News* previously that he was working with one reserve officer and six part-time officers, but only three of those were active. He had only one full-time officer. He could not be reached for comment before publication.

In the interim, the sheriff's office will dispatch deputies to Pelahatchie as needed. The Mississippi Highway Patrol will also assist the Town by monitoring I-55.

Superintendent Townsend explains Pelahatchie's accountability ratings

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County School District (RCSD) reports that 15 schools rated "A," seven rated "B," one rated "C" and four rated "D." High schools across the state dropped dramatically, while elementary schools increased. Out of 243 high schools in the state of Mississippi, 132 decreased by at least one letter grade (54% of the high schools in Mississippi). Further, of those 243 high schools, 172 went down in scale score, which is 70% of the high schools in Mississippi. Last year in the accountability model, there were 50 "A" high schools and this year there are 24, due to the fact that Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) reset the cut scores and is now using a percentile ranking. There were also 85 "B" high schools last year, and this year, there are 65 in the state.

"The Pelahatchie zone has a lot to be proud of," said RCSD Superintendent



Special to Pelahatchie News

Sue Townsend, Rankin County School District Superintendent of Education

Sue Townsend. "Pelahatchie Elementary received an "A" rating! The students, parents, faculty, and administration are to be highly commended for reaching

continued on page 8

Chiefs heading to playoffs

By Susie A. Wolfe

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Sam Williams is proud of his varsity football team and is excited to be heading into the playoffs. The first 6-2A playoff game will be at home November 2.

"It has been a good year," said Williams. "We were the number one offense in scoring in the State after Week Nine, and we will keep going. It was a great win over undefeated Scott County on October 19."

Quarterback Javeious Purvis is a "phenomenal player" according to Coach Williams. He has not only been the Blitz 16 Player of the Week this year, but he has also been selected to represent PHS as a defensive back for the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star 2018 game. The game



Photo by MaChandra Forest-Wilder

will be played on Monday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, Alabama.

Other recognitions include wide receiver Cedric Wilder being selected to play and Coach Williams being chosen to be a scout coach for the 2018 Bernard Blackwell Classic All-Star Football South Team. The 2018 Bernard Blackwell North/South All-Star Football Game is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 8, in Gulfport.

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Collier crowned Homecoming Queen



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Chiefs celebrated Homecoming on Friday, October 5, crowning Tiara Collier Homecoming Queen. The Chiefs won the Battle of Highway 49 by defeating Puckett 48-0. Pictured (l to r) are: 2017 Homecoming Queen Tyra Jones, 2018 Homecoming Queen Tiara Collier escorted by her father Sheldon Odom, Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield, Crown Bearer Ethan Quick and Flower Girl Bailee Goodin.

Griffin named RCSD Employee of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School's Andrew Griffin was recognized as the Rankin County School Board (RCSD) Secondary Classified Personnel Employee of the Month at the October Rankin County School Board meeting.



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Pelahatchie High School honors 2018 Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Homecoming Court pictured (l to r), front row, are: Crown Bearer Ethan Quick and Flower Girl Bailee Goodin; second row: Senior Maids Makayla McClure, Keyanna Flores, Zharia Holifield, Morgan Boyd, Tiara Collier, Kiaieshi Stokes, and Sandra Lewis; third row: Lakindria Rideout, Kyndal Patton, Camden Patton, and Gracie Jones; fourth row: Linda Gandarilla, Adlyn Till, Collins Doster, Abigail Dawson, and Kimberly Cochran; and fifth row: Olivia Sirmon, Jacey Cooper, Aliza Myers, Chloe Walters, Brooklyn Johnson, Isabella Rust, and Katie Belle Boyer.

Rhodes crowned 2018 ERA Homecoming Queen



Special to Pelahatchie News

Morgan Rhodes was named as East Rankin Academy's 2018 Homecoming Queen during the October 19 game against Presbyterian Christian. She was escorted by her dad Kyle.

2018 ERA Homecoming Court



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy recently named its 2018 Homecoming Court. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Hannah Howard, Taylor Turman, Morgan Rhodes, and Bailey Thompson; and back row: Kealey Bradford, Anna Claire Shamburger, Bre Harrison, and Anna Castle Peden.

Persimmon seed predicting icy, cold winter



By Doug Carter,
Rankin County
Extension Agent

Weather is one of my favorite subjects. We just went through a wet summer. As we go into fall, we wonder what to expect.

Some people get excited about long term trends in the weather and get upset about how we are making a mess of it these days. Well, I know who controls the weather, and it's certainly not me.

The science of meteorology is the study of the weather along with connections to some things that influence it. We actually now know more about the weather than we once did, even though there have been some pretty

neat predictions in the past, such as the break in the weather that was predicted for the D-Day Invasion of Normandy in 1944. The weather was so bad that the German commander took a few days off and went home for his wife's birthday. The weatherman told our generals that there would be a break for an invasion, and he was right.

Then there have been the wrong calls through the years, such as the Galveston, Texas, hurricane in September, 1900 that killed as many as 12,000 people. We have very sophisticated weather prediction methods today, but mistakes are still made.

Some of the oldest methods of predictions still amaze us with their accuracy. I love to hear folks talk about the old signs, which were once used to predict the weather. Signs like if smoke comes

out of a chimney and goes straight down, it is a sign of snow or rain, and red sky at night, sailors delight, red sky in the morning, sailors warning.

One of the strangest methods for long range prediction of weather is the use of the persimmon seed. People who follow this school of thought go out and pick ripe persimmons and remove the seeds. The seed is then split across the width to reveal a cross section of the embryo that actually produces the new seedling.

The shape of the embryo within the



Special to Pelahatchie News

One of the strangest methods for long range prediction of weather is the use of the persimmon seed.

seed is then evaluated for its shape. When the embryo in most of the seeds is shaped like a spoon or shovel, the prediction is for snow. Another shape may be that of a knife. When most seeds have this kind of embryo, the weather is expected to be icy and cold. The third possible shape is actually of a fork, indicating that the winter weather may be mild with little snow or ice.

There is a persimmon tree in my yard and one on the hill close to our office. I took the opportunity to cut a few seeds open and found what looked like knives. This is predicting that the weather will be icy and cold this winter.

Whether this will come true or not, I will not attempt to guess. The moisture will be good for next year's growing season, regardless of whether it falls as rain or snow.

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Money tips every freshman should know



By Guest Columnist Harvey Lott, Vice President, PriorityOne Bank

Special to Pelahatchie News

As college students head to campus for the fall semester, money management should be on their personal syllabus, according to PriorityOne Bank. The bank has released ten money-saving tips to help college students get an early start on securing their financial future.

"It's important for college students to take control of their financial future by saving wherever and whenever they can," said Robbie Barnes, President/CEO, PriorityOne Bank. "They should treat personal finance like a second major and avoid unnecessary expenses now to reduce financial burden when they graduate."

PriorityOne Bank offers the following tips to help college students form a strong foundation for money management:

• **Create a budget.** You're an adult now and are responsible for managing your own finances. The first step is to create a realistic budget or plan and stick to it.

• **Watch spending.** Keep receipts and track spending in a notebook. Pace spending and increase saving by cutting unnecessary expenses like eating out or shopping so that your money can last throughout the semester.

• **Use credit wisely.** Understand the responsibilities and benefits of credit. Use it, but don't abuse it. How you handle your credit in college could affect you well after graduation. Shop around for a card that best suits your needs.

• **Take advantage of your bank's resources.** Most banks offer online, mobile and text banking tools to manage your account night and day. Use these tools to check balances, pay bills, deposit checks and monitor transaction history.

• **Lookout for money.** There's a lot of



Special to Pelahatchie News

money available for students -- you just have to look for it. Apply for scholarships, and look for student discounts or other deals.

• **Buy used.** Consider buying used books or ordering them online. Buying books can become expensive and often used books are in just as good of shape as new ones.

• **Entertain on a budget.** Limit your "hanging out" fund. There are lots of fun

activities to keep you busy in college and many are free for students. Get the most from your student ID. Use your meal plan or sample new recipes instead of eating out.

• **Use only your bank's ATMs.** Avoid fees by using ATMs owned by or affiliated with your bank. If you must use an ATM that is not affiliated with your bank, take out larger withdrawals to avoid having to go back multiple times.

• **Expect the unexpected.** Things happen, and it's important that you are financially prepared when your car or computer breaks down or you have to buy an unexpected bus ticket home. You should start putting some money away immediately, no matter how small the amount.

• **Ask.** This is a learning experience, so if you need help, ask. Your parents or your bank are a good place to start, and remember—the sooner the better.

EDITOR'S NOTE: PriorityOne Bank, based in Magee, Mississippi, operates fifteen offices in eleven Mississippi communities: Collins, Seminary, Hattiesburg, Magee, Mendenhall, Richland, Brandon, Ridgeland, Pearl, Pelahatchie, Flowood and Morton. The bank has assets of approximately \$600 million.



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FFA works at the State Fair



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Pelahatchie FFA worked the FFA Children's Barnyard at the 2018 State Fair. Pictured (l to r), first row, are: Kaitlyn White, Adlyn Till, Collins Doster, and Maddie Grace Walters; second row: MacKaylee Hester, Meaghan Hester, Madelyn Cain, Rose Gibney, Marie Valentine, Hunter Cain, Jake Warren, Kenner Doster, Holly White, Chloe Walters, McKinley Goodin, MacKenzie Hester, Bob Robinson, Olivia Simon, Colten Nickles, Justin Beeman, Addison Lindsey, Holden Gray, Isabella Atkinson, and Levi Goldman.

PHS and Middle School names perfect attendance

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) and Middle School perfect attendance for the first quarter includes:

- **Seventh grade:** Tyler Blue, Macey Bowman, Jadyus Boyd, Kaleb Evans, Ja'Leah Ford, Ja'Corius Gilbert, Abby Grace Hemeter, Jimmy Holifield, Javious Hughes, Tyler Johns, Lucas King, Olivia Laseter, Braden Laughlin, Timothy Lee, Makayla Macklin, Madyson McGee, JaKyla McKinnis, Revonda Renfrow, Payton Sanders, Dalton Stevens, Alexander Stewart, Thomas Strickland, Austin Tucker, and Kylie White.
- **Eighth grade:** Kayden Haden, Janiya Harris, Gracie Jones, Jeterrius Magee, Taylor Martin, Camden Patton, Ella Tucker, and Dylan Ward.
- **Ninth grade:** Justin Beeman, Dakota Butts, Kiara Gary, Levi Goldman, Col-

by Henderson, Emily Ingram, Janay Johnson, Haley Mills, Caleb Moore, Colten Nickles, Kenneth Reach, Marie Valentine, and Jacob Warren.

• **Tenth grade:** Jose Banuelas-Lopez, Katie Boyer, Garrett Day, Damarcus Gilbert, Paige Graves, Holden Gray, Meghan Herrington, Emmi Hoard, Kayla Hobson, Bailey Johnson, Brooklyn Johnson, Telaiah Lewis, Landin Pierce, Jacob Thompson, and Cameron Watkins.

• **Eleventh grade:** Gregory Beemon, Scarlett Castillo, Ahmad Johnson, Hunter Langley, Tayla Martin, Javian McKinnis, DeMarkus McNair, Elsi Munoz-Ramos, Gavin Spears, Hannah Steadham, James Thompson, Ethan White, and Terri Wiltcher.

• **Twelfth grade:** Juquarius Allen, Zharia Holifield, Jonathan King, Sandra Lewis, Brianna Rowland, Gunner Till, and Cedrick Wilder.

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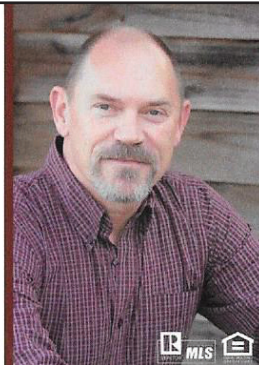
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continued from page 1

Superintendent Townsend explains Pelahatchie's accountability ratings

this top rating. They increased proficiency in reading by 8.6% and in math proficiency by 8.4%. They also grew in all four growth categories. Their "Third Grade Reading Gate" pass rate increased 8.7% from 88.2% in 2017 to 96.9% in 2018."

Pelahatchie High School was given a "D" rating; however, this letter grade does not tell the whole story of their student academic achievement. They have many successes:

- Top twenty five percent in the state for graduation rate.
- Above the state average for history proficiency, math proficiency, and acceleration.
- Increased reading proficiency by 1.4%.
- Increased science proficiency by 5.2%.
- Increased history proficiency by 12.5%.
- Increased acceleration by 6.4%.
- Increased graduation rate by 5%.

"As you know, Pelahatchie High School is a 7-12 grade school," Townsend added. "Based on the MDE model, there are zero 7-12 schools in the state that achieved an "A" or a "B" rating. If you look at the data and pull out the seventh and eighth grades, Pelahatchie High's rating would increase at least one letter grade. This is concerning because these schools across the state, not just in the RCSD, have no chance to make anything above a "C," but they are being compared to 9-12 schools."

"In spite of the unique challenges that some of our school's face, we are increasing our support both in-

ternal and external to assist our students, teachers, and principals," said Townsend. "In addition to other district initiatives, RCSD has instituted a math teaching and learning lab for all teachers and administrators to observe exemplar instruction. We are coaching teachers and administrators to increase their instructional capacity. We have infused literacy into all core content areas and are focused on conceptual thinking mathematics instruction. We have implemented ongoing – embedded professional development into the four content areas across the district."

"We are proud to say that once again the RCSD received an overall "A" accountability rating," said Townsend. "Our teachers and students did an amazing job this year, and I am extremely proud of their successes. While we are very pleased with what RCSD is doing to provide students with the best, our scores also show us areas that we need to improve. This information will be used to drive our instructional focus this year."

Nearly 75% of RCSD schools maintained or increased a letter grade; 100% of the elementary and middle schools increased student growth in reading. RCSD third grade gate pass rate increased by 4.5% with a passage rate of 97.7%. The three stand-alone middle schools tied for first in the state in Algebra One with 100% of their students scoring proficient and advanced. Twenty-two of the schools qualified for the state's school recognition program for teacher performance bonuses. Each year since 2013, the RCSD graduation rate has consistently increased, with the current RCSD graduation rate

being 88%. Dual Credit enrollment in the RCSD has increased by 18% since the previous year.

Key Highlights from the Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE) accountability report include:

- For the 2017 – 2018 school year, our "Third Grade Reading Gate" pass rate was 97.7%, which is above the state pass rate of 93.2%.
- Northshore Elementary scored eleventh in the state out of 650 elementary and middle schools for overall performance.
- Nine RCSD schools scored in the top 15% overall out of 650 elementary and middle schools (Brandon Elementary, Brandon Middle, Florence Elementary, Highland Bluff Elementary, Northwest Rankin Elementary, Northshore Elementary, Rouse Elementary, Steen's Creek Elementary, and Stonebridge Elementary).
- Northshore Elementary scored fourth and Florence Elementary scored fifth in science proficiency.
- Brandon High School and Northwest High School scored in the top 15% overall out of 243 high schools.
- The Class of 2018 earned over \$40 million in scholarships.
- Nearly 300 RCSD students scored a 28 or higher on the ACT.
- The RCSD's total enrollment in dual credit courses increased by more than 18% from 2017 to 2018.
- Northwest Rankin High School was second in the state for College and Career Readiness.
- Pisgah High School was sixth in the state for acceleration.
- Northwest Rankin High School scored seventh in the state and Bran-

don High School scored eleventh in the state for History Proficiency.

- Brandon Middle School, Florence Middle School, and Northwest Rankin Middle School tied for first in the state in Algebra One with 100% proficient and advanced.
- Brandon Middle School tied fifth in the state for overall performance among middle schools; Northwest Rankin Middle School tied fourteenth in the state for overall performance among middle schools; Florence Middle School was eighteenth in the state for overall performance among middle schools.
- The RCSD's US History proficiency average is 16 points above the state average.
- RCSD third grade English Language Arts (ELA) student growth increased from 61% in 2017 to 75% in 2018.
- RCSD fourth grade English Language Arts (ELA) students increased performance from 40% proficiency in 2017 to 62% proficiency in 2018.
- Sixth grade math proficiency increased from 49% to 67%.
- Sixth grade overall math growth increased from 60% to 84%.
- Fourth grade math proficiency increased from 52% to 65%.
- ELA fourth grade overall student growth increased from 45% to 77%.
- Fourth grade lower performing ELA student growth increased from 41% to 77%.
- Biology One scores grew from 71% to 76% proficient.
- Students leaving high school with 27 or more college hours (enough to be classified as college sophomores) grew from 2% to 4%.

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Thursday, November 29, 5:30 p.m.

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Bronc Bash raises \$6,000 for local charities



Photo by Natasha Childers

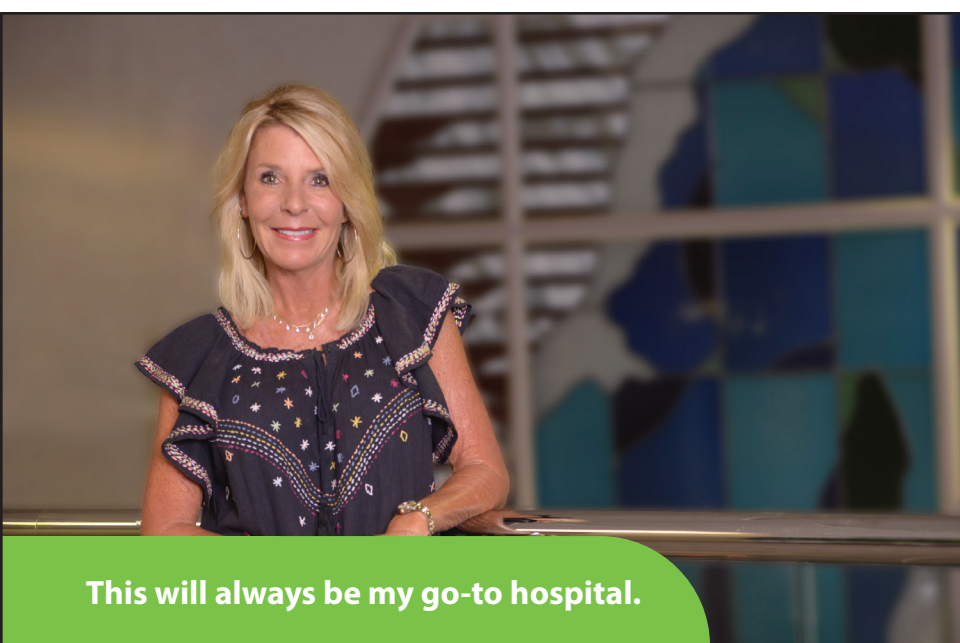
Local photographer Natasha Childers took some action shots like this one at the annual Rankin County Bucking Bronc Bash held October 7. Organizer Cole Bilbro reported 500-600 attendance and \$6,000 raised for Ever Reaching Community Outreach (RECO) and the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Herrington wins Big Time



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School awarded Mandy Herrington the September "Big Time" recognition given to a teacher who helps other teachers. She is shown with Tanner Wilson from Farm Bureau, award sponsor.



This will always be my go-to hospital.

When Amy Marler found out a family member was having breathing issues and nausea, she first thought it was food poisoning. But with symptoms worsening, she immediately decided to rush her loved one to the Merit Health Rankin emergency room. Upon arrival they were quickly triaged and within a few minutes a physician was in their room assessing the situation. After careful observation and a thorough treatment plan, the ER physician discharged them home and the patient made a complete recovery. Amy said, "My first instinct was to go to the Merit Health Rankin ER and I'm so glad we did. We were treated with compassion and a sense of urgency that let us know we were important to them. I'm so thankful to have Merit Health Rankin in our community."

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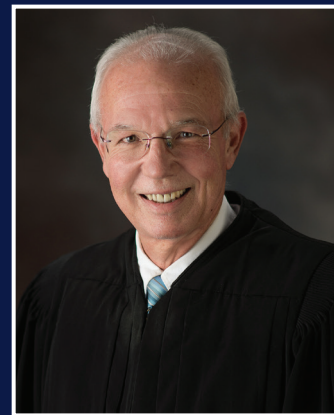
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PES names September Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The September Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) Students of the Month, pictured (l to r), front row, are: Jax Parker, Jose Lopez, Karen Sherrill, Austin Henderson, and Bentlee Smith; second row: Savannah Carlino, Hannah Domiguez, Carlye Grogan, Chyna Bowie, Tuff Parker, Khloe Belk, Caiden Gray, Khloe Sherrill, and Brellyn Burnham; and third row: Danielle Windham, Kade Hernandez, Harley Kitchens, Jamirah Magee, Wyatt Renfro, Isabel Brown, Hayden Steadham, and Ethan Stevens. Not Pictured are Paisley Cupstid, Kayden Smith, Aiden Smith, Ema Waters, and Hadyn Cupstid.

Middle School students recognized in September



Special to Pelahatchie News

The September Pelahatchie Middle School Students of the Month pictured (l to r), front row, are: Maddie Walters, Leah Carter, Jimmy Holifield, and Sammy Gibney; and back row: Elijah Williams, Eli Boyer, Revonda Renfrow, and Alexia Bennett. They received a Bob's Gas free lunch.

PHS names September Students of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

September's High School Students of the Month pictured (l to r), front row, are: Jon King, Jessica Smith, MaKaylee Hester, Julia Myers, Kenner Doster, Jefferson Williams, and Seanadrian Johnson; and back row: Eric Davis, Cameron Watkins, Carlos Felix, Olivia Simon, Anna Grace Carter, Hunter Langley, and Ian Jackson. Not pictured are Sharetha Hobbs and Michelle Moore. Bob's Gas providing them with a free lunch.

Attendance, Ability, and Attitude (All A's!)



Special to Pelahatchie News

By Guest Columnist
Teague Burchfield,
Principal, Pelahatchie
High School

With the first nine weeks behind us, I would like to take a moment to highlight the efforts of our student body. First of all, I am proud to announce that 20% of our student body met perfect attendance expectations for the first quarter of the school year. Not only is daily attendance imperative for academic success, it is a great quality that transitions well into adulthood.

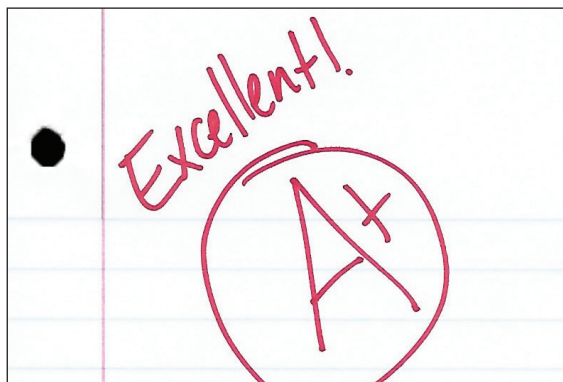
In addition to our attendance success, 34% of our students received "A" or "A/B" Honor Roll for the first nine weeks. As an educator, seeing positive results that are spawned from high academic expectations are an absolute pleasure. As with attendance, high academic expectations tend to translate into successful professional traits.

Last, I can't say enough how proud I am of our student body's behavior over the past nine weeks. Our students are wonderful! They carry themselves so well; they are polite, respectful, and seem to really enjoy themselves at school. Again, these qualities ensure a successful transition into adulthood. You, as parents, should all be proud of the development of the young men and women you send to us each day.

We have asked so much of our students this year, and I am proud to say that they have exceeded expectations. With that being said, there is still work to be done. Endurance and academic growth must be present as we move further into the school year.

It is an appropriate time to refer back

to a few thoughts from a column written earlier this year. The "Circle of Trust" must remain intact. We all play a role in the success of our children. We've asked our students to exhibit endurance; we as educators and you as parents must model the same. And let's not forget that "The Things that Matter, We Can't Leave to Chance" still applies in this regard. While we've had a phenomenal start to the school year, it would be haphazard to assume that these successes will continue by chance alone. Let's



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all continue to meet halfway to ensure the success of our students.

To close, and with the winter sports season upon us, I would like to invite you all to continue to support our athletic program. Coach Lavadius Lyles and Coach Pearlene Fairley look forward to seeing you in the stands as the boys and girls basketball programs tip off this month. Our Boys and Girls Soccer teams, led by Coach Patrick Creel, also get their start this month as well. Friday Night Lights are still an option as well as our Chiefs football squad begins their playoff run. Your support at all of our athletic events means so much to our student athletes and student body. On behalf of everyone at Pelahatchie High School, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Pelahatchie High School names first quarter honor roll

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Ninth grade all As includes: Madelyn Cain, Abbigale Davis, Collins Doster, Haley Mills, Julia Myers, Laura Renfroe, Bailey Smith, Adlyn Till, Marie Valentine, and Kaitlyn White.

Ninth grade As and Bs includes: Sarah Bayliss, Chrystianna Beeman, Justin Beeman, Kenner Doster, Kiara Gary, Levi Goldman, McKinley Goodin, Colby Henderson, Alyssa Hill, Megann Alana Hobson, Janay Johnson, Adrianna Macoy, David Roy, Garland Ward, Jacob Warren, and Tinly Jo Watkins.

Tenth grade all As honor roll includes: Gaven Boydston, Katie Boyer, Holden Gray, Meghan Herrington, MaKaylee Hester, Sungmin James Lee, Reagan Sanders, and Chloe Walters.

Tenth grade As and Bs includes: Dana Bennett, Victoria Gibney, Chloe Hamilton, Makenzie Hester, Kayla Hobson, Gloria Hospedales, Alexis Johnson, Bailey Johnson, Seanadrian Johnson, Faith Smith, Jacob Thompson, Peggy Grace Thompson, and Cameron Watkins.

Eleventh grade all As includes: Abigail Dawson, Sydni Goldman, Elsi Munoz-Ramos, and Denver Sturgill. The AB honor roll includes Wesley Anderson, Isabella Atkinson, Gregory Beemon, Anna Grace Carter, Scarlett Castillo, Kimberly Cochran, Kennedy Dixon, Maria Ellinburg, John Huston Elliott, Emma Gray, Dakota Holmes, Devin Irvin, Hunter Langley, Tayla Martin, Aliza Myers, Trinty Norton, Hannah Rawson, Anna Scherer, Olivia Sirmon, James Thompson, Victoria Thornton, Madison Toney, Terri Wiltcher, and Rachel Wraight.

Twelfth grade all As honor roll includes: Katie Bayliss, Cheyla Munoz-Ramos, Brenna Renfroe, Brianna Rowland, Harrison Till, Jordan White, Hannah Whitney, and Cedric Wilder.

Twelfth grade As and Bs includes: Tiara Collier, Eric Davis, Hannah East-erling, Keyanna Flores, Carmen Hamilton, Tyia Hoard, Leilani Key, Sandra Lewis, Makayla McClure, Dajah Reynolds, Thomas William Sanford, Jessica Smith, Kiaieshi Stokes, Chandler Stribling, and Gunner Till.

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

Obituaries

NAME	AGE	CITY	DOD	Arrangements
Helen McWilliams	84	Homewood, MS	9/25/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Williams Collins	73	Forest, MS	9/30/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Dwight Loper	52	Morton, MS	10/2/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Terrel McKay	65	Pelahatchie, MS	10/6/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Richard Bailey	69	Clinton, MS	10/6/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Rev. A.J. Stewart	92	Morton, MS	10/7/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Robert Gray	0	Brandon, MS	10/8/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Tommye Waggoner	98	Clifton, MS	10/10/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.
Ronald Walsh	85	Forest, MS	10/17/18	Wolf Funeral Serv.

Goldman and Renfrow are Extra-curricular Students of the Month



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School recently honored Levi Goldman and Brenna Renfroe as September's Extra-curricular Students of the Month. Pictured (l to r) are Goldman, PHS Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield, and Renfroe. Bob's Gas provided them with a free lunch.

Nobles awarded for "Handling It"



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School awarded the September "Handling It" Award to Kelsey Nobles who coordinates the tailgates and Homecoming. Tanner Wilson of Farm Bureau provided her with a gift.

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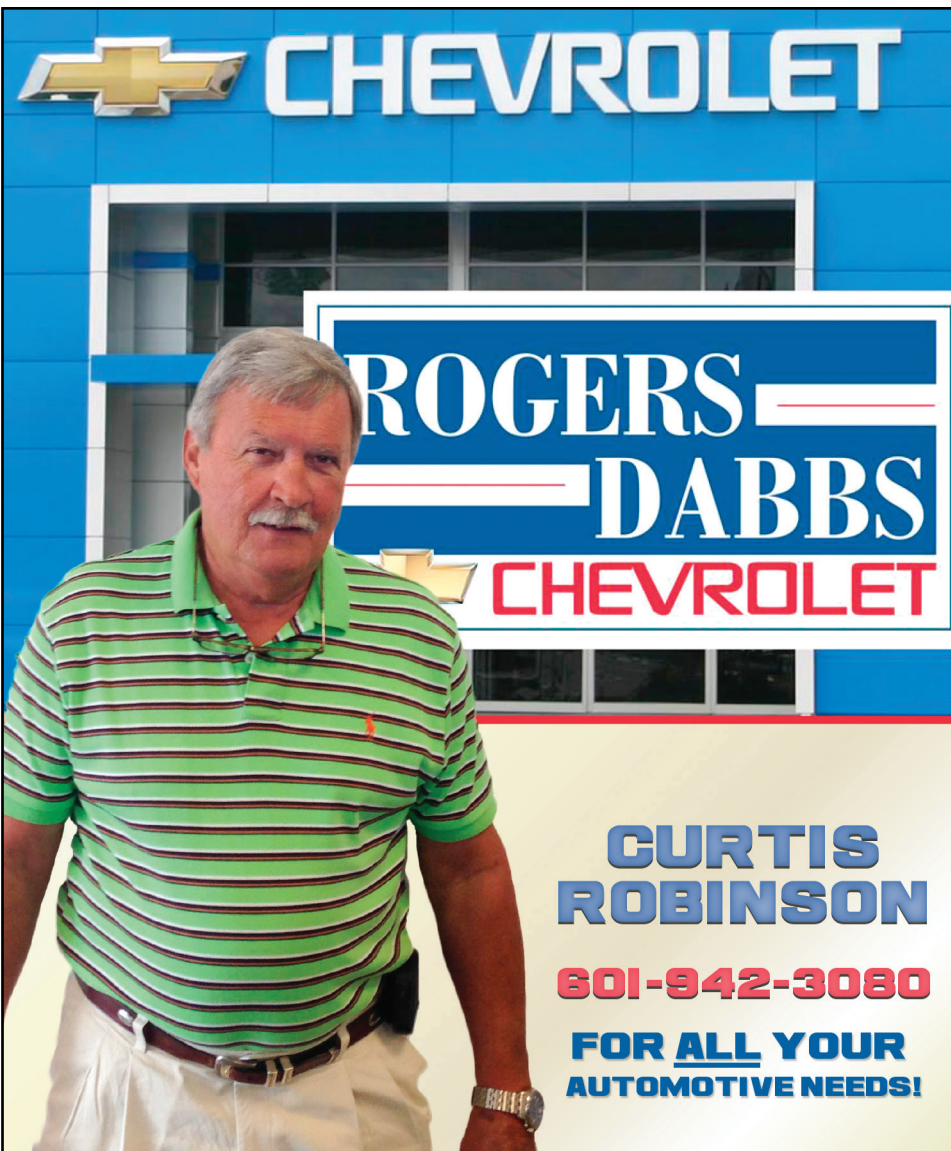
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Maddox inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

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Marley Maddox of Pelahatchie, was recently, initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Maddox was initiated at The University of Mississippi.

Maddox is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top ten percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.



Special to Pelahatchie News

Graduate students in the top ten percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

2001 State Football Champs honored at PHS Homecoming

GO BIG RED!

High School Football Coaches for 2001-2002, left to right: Ed Jones, Larry Hams, Tony Holeman, and Bill Ward



Senior Football Players for 2001-2002, left to right: JelQuin Harper, Tyrone Nelson, Craig Stewart, Kingi McNair, Shelby Henry, Corey Collier, Steven Johnson, James McNair, John Stokes, Lonnie Collier, Jack Watson

Chiefs are Number One!

Special to Pelahatchie News

Special to Pelahatchie News

To celebrate the 2018 winning season, Pelahatchie High School (PHS) recognized the only PHS State Championship Team from 2001 that has inspired generations of football. During the October Pelahatchie Homecoming football game against Puckett,

players and coaches from the 2001 1A State Championship Team were honored with a designated tailgate area for teammates and families, as well as an honorary place to sit and introductions on field at half time. The children of many of the team are currently students in Pelahatchie schools.

Grieving?

Know someone who is?

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.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRIEF SHARE

Sunday, November 11, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

Offered by:
Cross Roads Baptist Church
104 Crossroads Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145, (601) 546-2297



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Pastor's perspective: How would you do on God's report card?



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

It is report card time. Proud mamas are posting the results of their children on social media. And, from the results they are posting, they should be proud!

I've seen a few report cards in my time, after completing 20 years of education myself and having three children who studied beyond high school. While I was proud of my children's efforts, and might have posted some of their report cards, I'm sure glad social media wasn't around when I was getting a report card. I don't think my mama would have ever wanted to post my results.

Of course, the purpose of the report card is to give an evaluation of the progress that the student is making in each subject they are taking. It reflects areas that the student is doing well in and perhaps other areas where more effort might be needed.

As I was thinking about report cards,

the thought occurred to me. If God gave out report cards, what kind of grades would I receive? So, let me challenge you to think about how you would do on God's report card. Would your grades show that you are doing well? Or would they reflect that more effort would be needed?

Let's suppose that God gave you a grade on attendance at church. After all, He tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. (Hebrews 10:25) So, when it comes to attending worship services, what grade would you get?

Another subject area might be Bible study. Just like in school, where there are different math courses or history courses, when it comes to Bible study, there are different opportunities. So what grade would you receive for attending Sunday School or small group studies? And what about your personal Bible study? Are you "studying to show yourself approved?" (II Timothy 2:15)

In the area of prayer, what grade would you receive? And please remember that prayer is simply talking to God, so He knows how much time you spend with Him. His instruction to us is to pray without ceasing. (I Thessalonians



Special to Pelahatchie News

5:17) What would your grade be?

And what about the subject of personal witnessing? How often do you share your faith with others? Do you ever share your faith with others? Some treat this as an "elective course" in Christian life, but it really is required of all believers. After all, Christ did say, "You will be my witnesses...." (Acts 1:8)

And let's consider one other subject area that God might have on our report card. Again, many people treat this one as optional, but it's really not. It's the subject of stewardship. The course breaks down into two areas: steward-

ship of our lives and stewardship of our resources. Are you living your life for Christ? And are you investing your resources in His work through His Church? What grade would you earn in the area of stewardship?

And certainly, we cannot overlook the final exam. In God's school of life, there are no exemptions. Everybody has to take the final exam. In fact, Christ Himself will give us our grade in person. (Romans 14:12)

And there are only two possible grades; pass and fail. Either Christ will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant...." (Matthew 25:23) or He will say "Depart from Me, I never knew you...." (Matthew 7: 22-23).

So, let me encourage you to consider what your report card might look like if God were grading your life. What grades would you earn from Him? And don't forget the final exam. You can't know when it will come, but everybody will have to take it.

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!

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Wed. Night Service....6:30PM

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Cross Roads to host GriefShare Surviving the Holidays seminar

Special to Pelahatchie News

As a part of their GriefShare Ministry, Cross Roads Baptist Church will host a Surviving the Holidays seminar on Sunday, November 11, at 2 p.m. This seminar will help those who are grieving to prepare for the holidays.

The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance. These people share honestly about:

- Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays,
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes,

- How to handle holiday parties and invitations,
- How to survive potentially awkward moments with other people, and
- Where to find comfort, strength, and hope in a seemingly hopeless time.

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.

Everyone is invited to attend. Cross Roads is located at 104 Crossroads Road, Pelahatchie. For more information, call Sheila Bradshaw, GriefShare Coordinator, at 601-546-2297.

First Apostolic Church

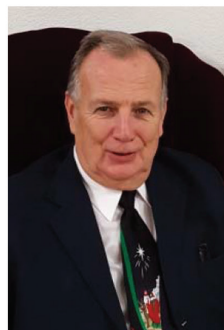
508 Heslep Street

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Pastor: Rev. Jerry Hamilton

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Services: Sunday 10:00a.m. & 6:00p.m.
Wednesdays: 7:00p.m.



Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church

101 Jackson Avenue, Pelahatchie, MS 39145, 601-854-8292 Church
Pastor Ronnie Brown, Sr., Email ~ reb1266@aol.com

Carmel Corner

Sunday School ~ Every Sunday @ 9:00 AM
Worship Service ~ Every Sunday @ 10:15 AM
Bible Class ~ Every Wednesday - Youth @ 6
& Adult @ 6:30 PM

Single Ministry ~ 2nd Saturday @ 10:00 AM
Christian Counseling Ministry - 2nd & 4th
Saturday @ Noon

Couples Ministry ~ 4th Saturday @ 1:00 PM
Mission & Brother Hood Ministry
4th Sunday ~ following Worship Service

Church Motto: "We Do It God's Way or No Way at All"
Pastor Brown's Motto: "Follow Me, As I Follow Christ"



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Goodin and Lewis named Athletes of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

Farm Bureau recently named the September Athletes of the Month for Pelahatchie High School. Pictured (l to r) are McKinley Goodin, Tanner Wilson of Farm Bureau, Avery Lewis, and Coach Sam Williams. Goodin is a softball player, and Lewis plays football.

Nobles wins RCSD essay contest



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School teacher Kelsey Nobles, middle, won the RCSD essay contest. Pictured (l to r) are: RCSD Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction Angy Graham, RCSD Secondary ELA Curriculum Specialist Jana Comer, Contest Winner Kelsey Nobles, Pelahatchie High School Principal Dr. Teague Burchfield, and RCSD Assistant Superintendent Buddy Bailey.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County School District (RCSD) gave K-12 teachers the opportunity to write an essay explaining their "why" or reason for choosing education as their career with the "What Is Your Why?" Challenge. Kelsey Nobles, fifth-year Pelahatchie High School (PHS) teacher, had one of the two winning essays. Rebecca Russell of Brandon High School was the other.

Over 60 submissions were received

and blindly judged by a committee. The two winning teachers were awarded \$1,250 each to be applied toward the costs of registration, travel, and lodging for a conference in their content area. The winning essays will be printed in the upcoming *Secondary Connections* newsletter.

Nobles teaches eighth grade math and high school geometry. She was awarded the "Handling It" Award at PHS for September for coordinating football tailgates and Homecoming.



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