

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pelahatchie "By The Numbers"
from the 2020 Census - pg. 3

Pelahatchie holds 2021
Christmas Parade - pg. 10



January
2022

Volume 11
Issue 1
Pelachatchie, MS

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U.S. POSTAGE
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PELAHATCHIE, MS
PERMIT NO. 4

Pelahatchie News
P.O. Box 771
Pelachatchie, MS 39145

Pastor's Perspective: What's your vision for 2022



Special to
Pelachatchie News

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

Here we are at the beginning of a New Year! 2022 is here with all the promise and potential that every New Year provides us. Of course, as with every New Year, there are many things that are beyond our control. But it is important to focus on what we can control. Among them are our attitudes, our conduct, our words, and our goals.

Great organizations and companies have vision and mission statements. They also have themes each year that are reflective of their goals. Whether it's a Fortune 500 company, a church or any other organization, it's important that everyone on the team knows what the goals are so they can work together towards achieving those goals. As a

reminder, they put out a theme for the year to help everyone in the organization to remain focused on reaching the goals.

I think that same principle is important in our individual lives. We all need to have a vision about what we want to accomplish this year, and set some goals that will move us toward accomplishing the vision. Finally, having a personal theme for the year can help you stay focused on reaching your goals.

For those who are Believers, an appropriate source for choosing a theme for the year is God's Word. Let me suggest a few possibilities.

Ephesians 4:1 says, "Lead a life worthy of your calling." Contrary to what many believe, Ministers and Missionaries are not the only people that God "calls." Every person has been called to salvation, and every believer has been called to service. So every person should pray and seek to understand

what God's calling is on your life. After you have determined what your "calling" is, you should resolve to "Lead a life worthy of that calling."

Another possible theme verse is John 3:30, which says, "I must decrease and He must increase."

If you were to choose this as your theme verse, then everything you do in 2022 should be reflected and measured by that verse. In every situation and decision you face, you should ask the question, "Will this be for my glory or for His?" If it's for your own glory, it will go against the theme verse and be detrimental to your overall goals.

"I must decrease and He must increase" means that you should put God's needs and will above your own. You should recognize that His message and will are more important than your own. This is not an easy theme to follow. It will go against human nature. But by trying to decrease so that the Lord can increase

in your life, you will be more content and He will be glorified through you.

I Corinthians 2:16 is another possible theme verse. It says, "But we have the mind of Christ." If that were your theme verse, then you should carefully guard what enters your mind, because temptation often begins with our thoughts. And temptation leads to sin. So if you have the mind of Christ, you will constantly be monitoring what goes into your mind. Because what enters your mind as a thought often comes out as a sin!

These are just a few possibilities that could be used as a theme verse. Of course, any verse could serve that purpose. Why not pick one out. Choosing a verse can help you stay focused so that you can achieve the goals that God lays on your heart and accomplish all that God has for you to do this year!

Be sure to take your family to church on Sunday!

Burchfield, RCSD Secondary Administrator of the Year

By Susie A. Wofe

Dr. Teague Burchfield was chosen as the Rankin County School District (RCSD) 2021 Secondary Administrator of the Year. He is currently in his fourth year as principal at Pelahatchie High School (PHS).

RCSD is the third largest school district in Mississippi with 19,500 students in 28 schools. The district has an A rating. Dr. Burchfield received Administrator of the Month twice previous to this honor.

"I am obviously thrilled to receive the honor," said Burchfield. "The award is certainly a reflection of what our faculty, staff, and students do on a daily basis here at Pelahatchie High School. I couldn't be more proud of them and their efforts!"

"There is still work to do as the work is never finished. Our focus now is on continual improvements on our benchmarks and ACT as well as our seniors and their pursuit towards graduation."



Special to Pelachatchie News

Dr. Teague Burchfield was named Secondary Administrator of the Year for the Rankin County School District, the state's third largest school district.

Patrick rated superior at Piano Festival



Special to Pelachatchie News

Peyton Patrick achieved a Superior Rating in the 2021 MAIS Piano Festival held on November 4 at First Baptist Church, Jackson.



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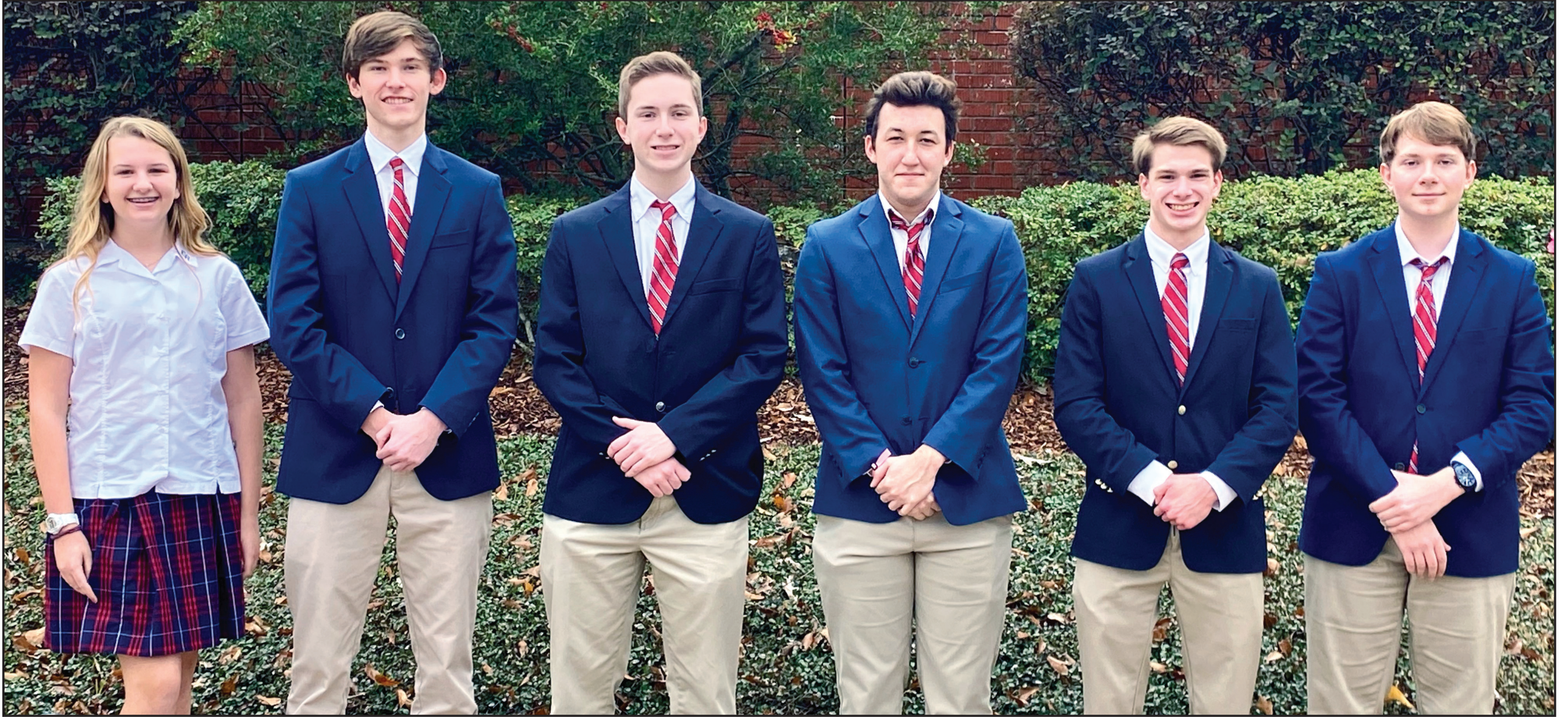
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ERA Quiz Bowl Team headed to quarterfinals



Special to Pelahatchie News

ERA Quiz Bowl Team won rounds one and two in the Mississippi College Academic Tournament against Petal High School and Riverside High School. Their next competition round is against Jackson Prep in the quarterfinals of the tournament. Pictured (l to r) are: Audrey Hawk, Dylan Davis, Colby Stewart, Brayden Whitney, Will Price, and Jonathan Lamberth.



P.O. Box 771
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
Volume 11 Issue 1
Circulation - 3,600

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Pelahatchie News is published
on the first Tuesday of every month
in Pelahatchie, MS.

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Rimes named RCSD Superintendent

Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County School Board announced Dr. Scott Rimes has accepted an offer to become the next district superintendent of the Rankin County School District (RCSD).

Dr. Rimes previously served as the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools and Athletics for the RCSD. His appointment was made official at the January 8 board meeting and he began January 1.

"We were fortunate to have many great candidates, but the board decided to hire from within. We are excited about this decision and the future of Rankin County School District under



Special to Pelahatchie News
Dr. Scott Rimes was named the new RCSD Superintendent in January.

his leadership," said Grumpy Farmer, Rankin County School Board President.

Rimes stated, "It is an honor to be chosen to serve the RCSD students, staff, and communities as the new superintendent. I appreciate the board's trust in me to carry on the tradition of excellence. I look forward to continuing the greatness of this district with all of our stakeholders."

The school board began the superintendent search process after Dr. Sue Townsend announced her retirement in September 2021 to be effective January 31. Dr. Townsend has served as superintendent at the Rankin County School District for the past six years.

Pelahatchie "By The Numbers" from the 2020 Census



Photo by Pelahatchie News

A crowd photo from the 2017 Muscadine Jubilee. The annual Jubilee held in September hasn't been held the past two years due to COVID.

Special to Pelahatchie News

According to *census.gov*, the Pelahatchie population was 1272 in the 2020 census made up of 489 families and 613 households. The land area of the Town is reported at 5.9 square miles. The Town is ranked 165 out of 363 Mississippi cities.

Race for the Town is listed as 60.6 percent white; 32.1 percent black, and 3.5 percent Hispanic.

2019 median income for the Town is listed at \$44,489 and median age is 38.8. Education shows that 43 percent have a high school education or equivalent; 5.8 percent have an associate degree; 4.7 percent have a bachelor's degree; and 4.4 percent have a graduate or professional degree. The veterans are listed at 6.4 percent of the Town's pop-

ulation.

Employment rate is the same for the Town and the state at 52.6 percent. Where people are employed includes 76.6 percent in private companies; 5.5 percent are self-employed; 4.3 percent in non-profit; and 8.2 percent in government.

In the poverty category, the under 18 group is listed as 25.1 percent; 18 to 64 at 22 percent; and 65+ at 16.5 percent.

For more detail on the 2020 census results, visit *cenus.gov*.

The numbers for Pelahatchie are different for different sources. *Pelahatchie News* asked the mayor about numbers on the Town website and he said that the Town is not currently updating that site. Call City Hall at 601-854-5224 if you have questions about the Town's numbers.



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How to properly use car headlights



By Doug Carter, Rankin County Extension Agent

Special to Pelahatchie News

With the recent time change, we find ourselves driving more often after dark than we did previously. We also have to worry about deer being on the road. Sometimes cows are out and in the roadway, or limbs are on the road after a storm.

A lot of newer vehicles now have a feature to turn headlights on automatically when daylight starts to turn to dark. However, you must ensure your headlight switch is in the correct position for this to work properly. But automatic doesn't work for every condition. You may need to manually turn on headlights in adverse weather conditions such as rain, fog, or smoke.

We have all met vehicles that have the high beams on and temporary blind us. If an approaching vehicle is using high beams when they should not be or have those blue-white aftermarket bulbs (these headlights seem to be on high, even when on low), just keep your eyes focused to the right edge of the road to help avoid being blinded by



Special to Pelahatchie News

their light, and stay in your lane.

Ensure your headlights are properly adjusted. This may be necessary if you have modified your vehicle by lowering or lifting the stance from stock height, or if you have replaced the original headlight housings.

Also, keep added on light bars and auxiliary lights turned off when on pub-

lic roads with other vehicles.

When to use high or low beams:

- **High Beams**

High beams should be used when there are few or no streetlights on the road. High beams will help you see farther down the road, preventing you from hitting any animals or pedestrians crossing in front of you.

They should be used when you are not meeting or coming up behind another vehicle.

- **Low Beams**

Poor weather limits visibility during the day. (Using high beams in fog or rain is often more dangerous because of light reflection).

Use low beams when city driving at night when short-range light is sufficient, when another vehicle is approaching in the opposite direction, and when following another vehicle at night.

Headlights can quickly become dirty or, more often, cloudy from age. If the plastic headlight lenses are not routinely polished and maintained to a crystal-clear finish it can cause problems for all drivers. Aged, clouded headlight lens will cause a glare to oncoming vehicles. If the plastic headlight lenses are not routinely polished and maintained to a crystal-clear, finish it can cause problems for all drivers.

So, maintain your headlights by using a lens restoration product or replacing the headlight housing all together.

Source: MSU Dawg Tracks, January 2021, Leslie Woolington, MSU-ES Risk Mgmt./Loss Control

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8:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship Service led by Praise Team
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11:00 - Blended Worship Service led by the Choir

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(Cross Roads Baptist Church Facebook Page)

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Chiefs receive All-State recognition



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Chiefs' seniors Kenner Doster (left), linebacker, and Quay Ragsdale (center), FS, were named to the All-State 2A football first defense team for 2021. Junior Elijah Williams (right), linebacker, was named to the All-State second team defense.

Luker named Pelahatchie High School New Teacher of the Year



Special to Pelahatchie News

Elizabeth Luker is shown receiving her PHS New Teacher of the Year certificate. Pictured (l to r) are: Philip Nelson, assistant principal; Leslie Herbert, instructional supervisor; Malcolm Luker, husband; Luker; and Dr. Teague Burchfield, principal.

By Susie A. Wolfe

First semester teacher Elizabeth Luker teaches the Health Science curriculum for students interested in the medical field. She was named the Pelahatchie High School (PHS) New Teacher of the Year.

A native of Florence, Mississippi, Luker graduated from Mississippi State University where she received a degree in Ag and extension education in 1999. She went back to school in 2011 at Hinds Community College Nursing School to get an Associate RN degree then to the University of

Mississippi Medical Center Bridge Program RN to MSN. She chose the medical field because she had a child with spina bifida at birth and wanted to learn as much as she could about that.

Luker said she "loves teaching and getting to know the kids and their families." She tells the students that "education can be your ticket to anywhere you want to go."

Her husband, Malcolm, is the director of the FFA Center at Raymond. They have three children: Natalie Putnam (Hayden), 28; Bradley, 21; and Grayson, 16.

Two Pelahatchie students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Special to Pelahatchie News

Lauren Shoemaker and Kaylee M. Hall were recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

sional 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 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the



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Shoemaker is a 2018 East Rankin graduate who is a senior nursing student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). Hall is a graduate of Pelahatchie High School.

East Rankin graduate Emilee Tadlock of Forest was also inducted into the honor society. She is also a student at the UMMC.

These two students are among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, profes-

top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."



JANUARY PELAHATCHIE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Pelahatchie Library Adult Book Club, Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 11:00 a.m. Discussing Amor Towles' novel, *A Gentleman in Moscow*

Join the Beanstack Winter Reading Challenge in January. Call the library for details.

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Happy New Year: Three things



*Special to
Pelahatchie News*

*By Guest Columnist
Dr. Teague Burchfield,
Principal, Pelahatchie
High School*

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a restful Christmas Holiday with family and friends. As always, each new year brings a need to reflect on the successes and failures of the year's past with a want to goal set for what is to come. We should all ask ourselves "Where can we improve ourselves academically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually?" Having answers for these questions will provide clarity and fulfillment for what is to come.

As for Pelahatchie High School, we will continue to devote our time to instruction and student engagement. Expect a continued focus on the fundamentals of the classroom. How our classes begin, how we deliver instruction and transition during the lesson, as well as how we close a lesson and assess learning, will all be starting points for our staff as we look

to improve ourselves in the upcoming year.

In turn, we ask that our students (and their families) aim to improve their practices as well. Being prompt to school each and every day, turning in classwork in a timely fashion, studying prior to an important exam, as well as respecting their neighbors and their opportunity to receive an appropriate education, all come to mind in this regard. Meeting these fundamental steps will prove rewarding as we close the '21-'22 school year.

In closing, and for ALL of us to consider, I would like to borrow a few words from legendary football coach Lou Holtz. As he was receiving the "NCFAA Contributions to College Football" award just a few weeks ago, he delivered three simple, yet effective, expectations for his audience that night. Coach Lou Holtz said...

1. "Do the Right Thing"
2. "Do the Best You Can"
3. "Always Show Folks You Care"

Well said...Let's ALL follow through!
Happy New Year & Go Chiefs!



Hinds CC announces fall graduates and scholars

Special to Pelahatchie News

Hinds Community College (HCC) recently announced Fall 2021 semester graduates and scholars.

Hinds Community College graduated more than 800 students in one of three graduation ceremonies at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus on Dec. 5, 2021. Hinds awarded 1,150 certificates and degrees, with some students receiving more than one credential.

The four students who graduated include Wendy Bennett, Christian Earby, Wendy Sparnecht, and Rachel Wraight. Of those graduating, 148 were cum laude with a grade point average of 3.2 to 3.59; 94 were graduating magna cum laude with a grade point average of 3.6 to 3.99 and 117 were graduating summa cum laude with a grade point average of 4.0.

President's scholars are those with a cumulative 4.0 grade point average. Students from Pelahatchie on that list include: Christina Alvarado, Rebecca Bond, Katie Boyer, Alaina Hughes, Morgan Morris, William Shuler, Roxie Smith, and Kaitlyn White.

Deans' scholars are those students with a cumulative 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average. Students on that list include: James Conklin, Dylan Delaughter, Kobi Denson, Landri Gray, Bailey Johnson, Madison McCarley, and Jacob Winstead.

With six campuses in central Mississippi, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution offering quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills.

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Obituaries

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Doris W. Mowery	100	Pelahatchie	12/16/2021	Wolf Funeral Services
Ozella Weems Newton	103	Newton	12/23/2021	Wolf Funeral Services

ERA students win District Spelling Bee



Special to Pelahatchie News

Three East Rankin Academy (ERA) students won at the MAIS District Spelling Bee in January. Pictured (l to r) are: Zack Price, who won second place in the sixth-grade competition; Cason Patrick, first place in seventh grade; and R.T. Tate, first place in eighth grade. They will compete in the MAIS State Spelling Bee on January 21.

Roberts named PES New Teacher of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Haley Roberts was named New Teacher of the Year at Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) in November. She is a first-grade teacher in her second year of teaching.

She said she "enjoys the excitement in the students when they finally master a new skill."

Roberts is from Brandon and graduated from Brandon High School and Mississippi State University. She plans to obtain a Master's degree and start working with curriculum and instruction.



Special to Pelahatchie News

First grade teacher Haley Roberts is PES' 2021 New Teacher of the Year.

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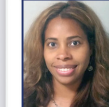
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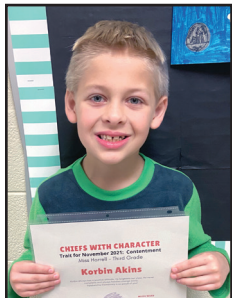
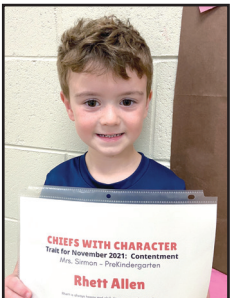
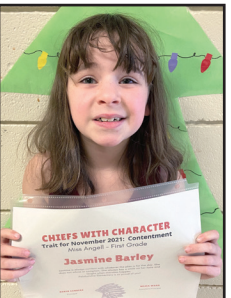
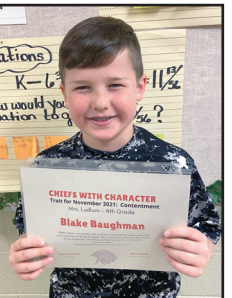
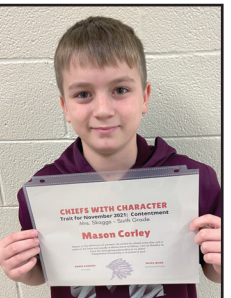
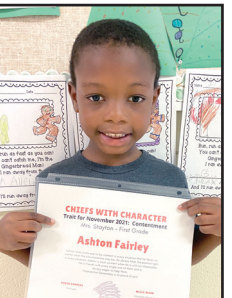
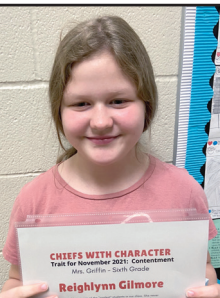
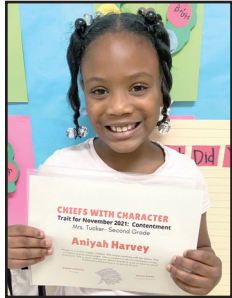
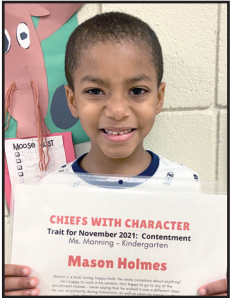
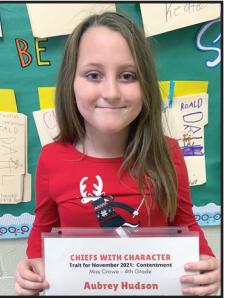
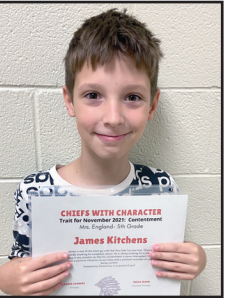
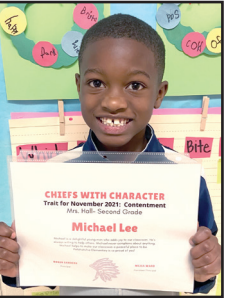
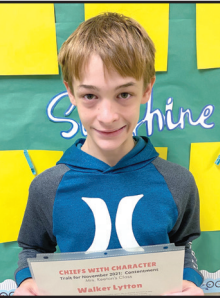
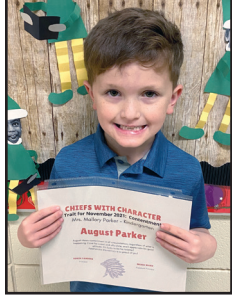
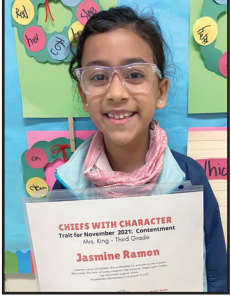
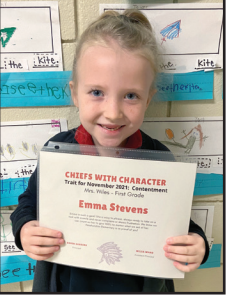
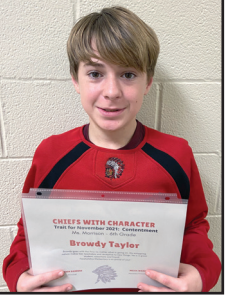
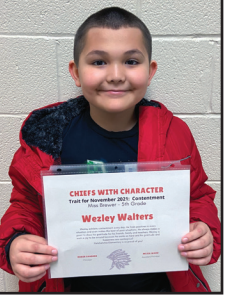
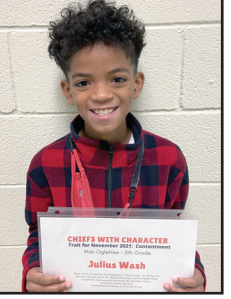
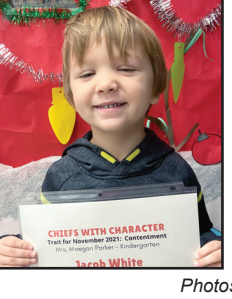
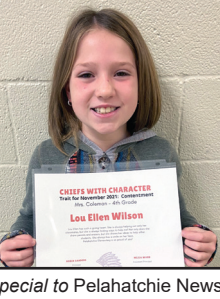
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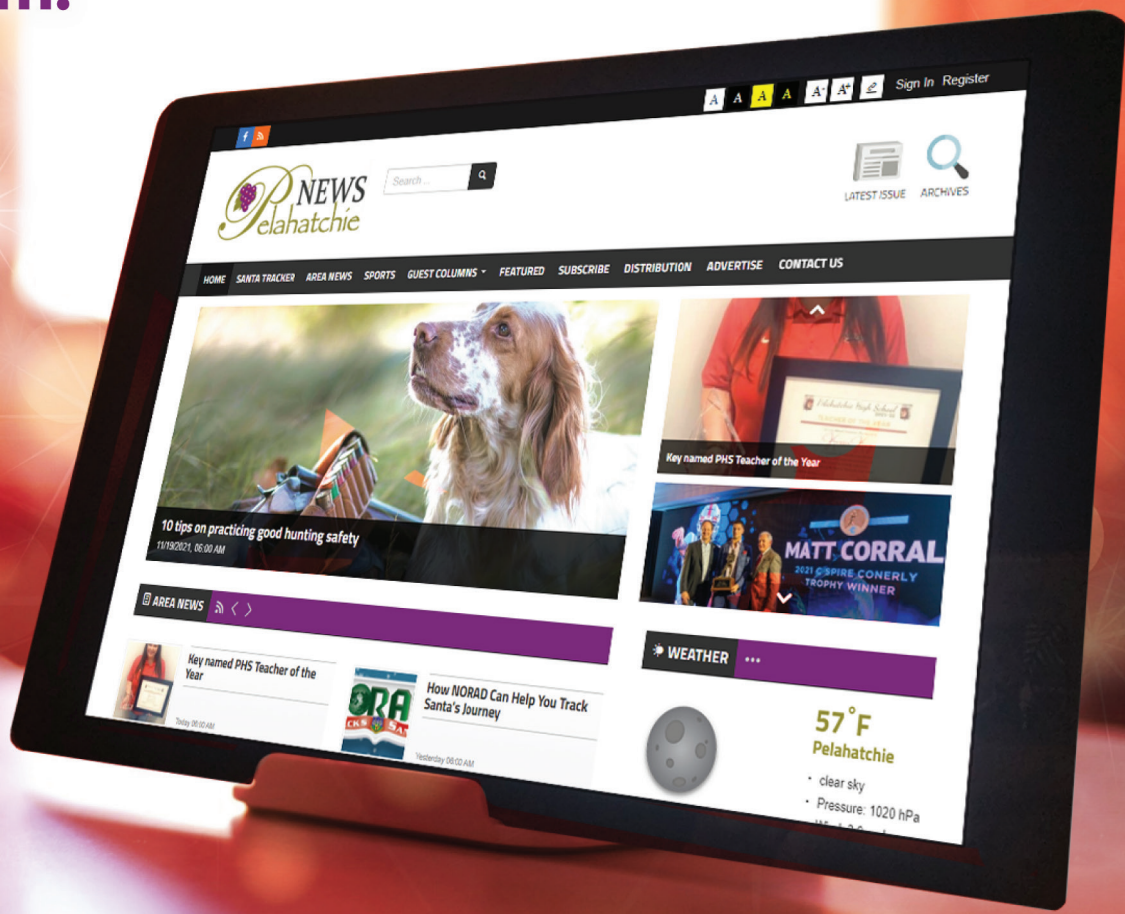

PES names November Character Trait Students

 Korbin Akins	 Rhett Allen	 Jasmine Barley	 Blake Baughman	 Ramzey Beechem	 Mason Corley	 Ashton Fairley	 Reighlynn Gilmore
 Aniyah Harvey	 Mason Holmes	 Aidyn Hudson	 Alley Hudson	 Aubrey Hudson	 James Kitchens	 Michael Lee	 Walker Lytton
 August Parker	 Jasmine Ramon	 Emma Stevens	 Browdy Taylor	 Wesley Walters	 Julius Walsh	 Jacob White	 Lou Ellen Wilson

Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES) named the November 2021 Chiefs with Character Trait students of the month. The students who earned this honor are shown above.

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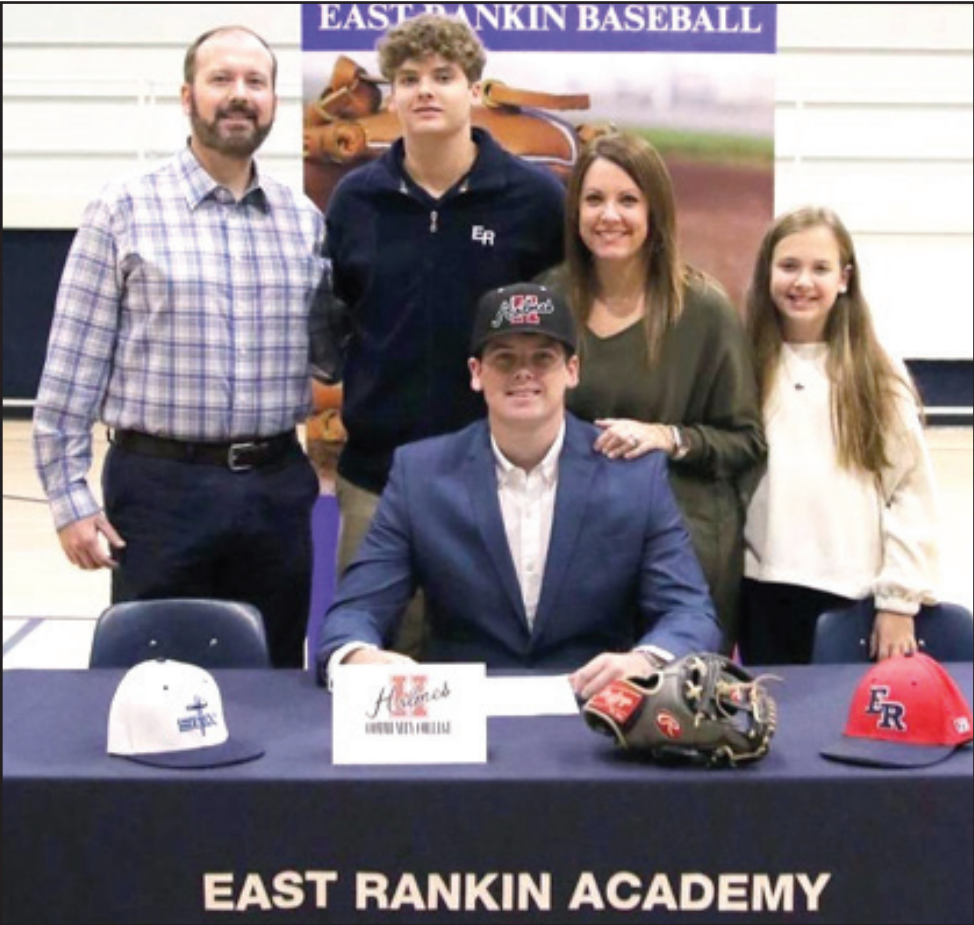
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57°F
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• clear sky
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ERA's Floyd signs with Holmes CC



East Rankin Academy Senior Walker Floyd signed to play baseball with Holmes Community College (Holmes CC). Pictured (l to r) front, are: Walker Floyd; and back row: Doug Floyd, Weston Floyd, Alisha Floyd, and Evie Claire Floyd.

Special to Pelahatchie News

Sullivan named Pelahatchie Baptist pastor

By Susie A. Wolfe

Spencer Sullivan was called to pastor Pelahatchie Baptist Church starting in October. He had served as interim since February.

A graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee, Sullivan previously served with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, where he served overseas for 12 years. He also has a Church Music Certificate from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He previously served as Associate Activities Minister at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi in 2004-2005 and as Youth Pastor and Minister of Music at Highland Baptist Church in Senatobia, Mississippi from 2001-2004.

He also has a bachelor's degree in Sports Ministry from Belhaven University, where he was on the varsity baseball team. He received the Blazer Award in 2001, which is given to an outstanding player who represents Christ on and off the field.

Sullivan said, "I want everyone to feel welcome at Pelahatchie Baptist. I will be a pastor for everyone here. My mission is to equip the body of Christ to disciple and impact here and around the



Special to Pelahatchie News

Spencer Sullivan is the new pastor at Pelahatchie Baptist. He and his family moved into the pastor's home the last week in January.

world."

Both he and his wife, Melanie, are from Brandon where they graduated together from Brandon High School. They have four children: Caleb, 18, who will attend Hinds Community College; Eden, 16, and Jeremiah, 13, who are homeschooled; and Asa, 9, who will start Pelahatchie Elementary in January.

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Pelahatchie holds 2021 Christmas Parade



Rosie and Jack Rhodes were the Christmas Parade Grand Marshalls riding in a red convertible. Jack is a third-generation pharmacist who started Rhodes and Robby Drugs in 1969 with Claude Robinson.



The Percolator float won second place. The drive-thru coffee shop also serves meals seven days a week.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Baptist Church float was the third-place winner. Pictured (l to r) are: Jamie Ross, Pastor Spencer Sullivan and Mayor Karl VanHorn, and Mechelle Myers. They received a monetary prize that will be given to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Special to Pelahatchie News

The 2021 Pelahatchie 'A Hometown Christmas Parade' was held Saturday, January 4, featuring bands, floats, fire and police trucks, kids, cars, candy, and, of course, Santa.

The Pelahatchie High School (PHS) Army ROTC led the parade with the

presentation of colors. The Lady Chiefs Basketball team were also featured dribbling down the street.

The Parade judges were District 4 Rankin County Supervisor Steve Gaines and City Attorney Kimberly Banks. They awarded first place to the Priority One Bank float whose theme was "We treat you like family." Second place went

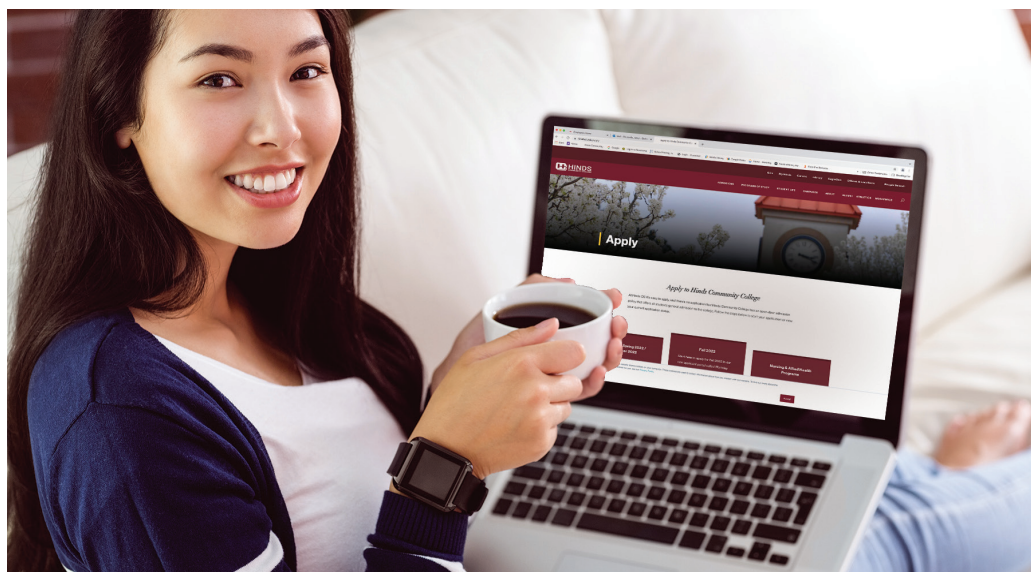
to The Percolator Coffee Shop featuring "warm chocolate marshmallow wishes for the holiday season." Third was won by Pelahatchie Baptist Church's the "greatest gift of Christmas is Jesus."

The parade also included community groups DEM Drummer Boys percussion group and The Jazzios musicians. It also featured a group of Ford mustangs

called the Wicked Stangs of Mississippi, Pleasant Hill MB Church, Elmore Towing, The Service Station, Central Mississippi Antique Association's antique tractors, Tyler McCrory and the Watson family.

The Pelahatchie Volunteer Fire Department also hosted a Pancakes with Santa that morning in the Community Center.

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PHS names November Teacher, Students of the Month



November Students of the Month pictured (l to r) first row, are: JaKyla McKinnis, Madyson McGee, Sara Myers, Kyra Bryant, Baelah Crosby, and Amelia Griffin; and back row: Holly White, Bailey McKee, Arianna Gipson, Jamaal Longino, and Symon Stringer. Not pictured is Hayden Huff.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Emily Hayes was named the Teacher of Innovation for November. Pictured (l to r) are: Tanner Wilson, Farm Bureau, sponsor; Hayes; Leslie Herbert, instructional supervisor; and Dr. Teague Burchfield, PHS principal.

By Susie A. Wolfe

McKinley Goodin was named the Farm Bureau Athlete of the Month for

November and Emily Hayes was recognized as Teacher of Innovation. All-Around Students of the Month were Sara Myers, seventh grade; Baelah

Crosby, eighth; Amelia Griffin, ninth; Madyson Magee, tenth; Holly White, eleventh; and Bailey McKee, twelfth. Student Athletes of the Month include

Arianna Gipson, seventh; Kyra Bryant, eighth; Jamaal Longino, ninth; JaKyla McInnis, tenth; Symon Stringer, eleventh; and Hayden Huff, twelfth.

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(L to R) front row, are, Jenny Harrell/ Manager, Amy Bailey, and Jennifer Quick; and (L to R) back row, are: Cindy Jo Weimer, and Brian Hall/Owner.

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Beemon gets full basketball scholarship



Special to Pelahatchie News

On November 19 Chrystianna Beeman signed to play basketball with Jones Community College on a full athletic scholarship. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Airrianna Beeman, sister, Beeman; and Tyson Beeman, brother; and back row: Howard Beeman, dad; Alexia Jones, PHS Ladies Basketball Coach; Lauren Perisch, assistant coach; and Amber Beeman, mom.

Hall named to NAR Committees



Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Realtor Megan Hall with Turn Key Properties will be part of the National Realtor's Association's Federal Finance and Housing Policy committees in 2022.

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