

Pelahatchie pays it forward

See page 3



Welcome Back Patriots & Chiefs

See page 15

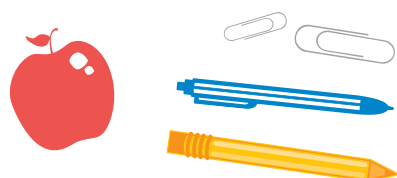
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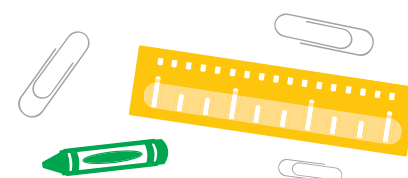
Issue 8

August 2013

Volume 2



BACK To SCHOOL



New Headmaster issues special welcome to students



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

BY: DAN BOYCE, HEADMASTER OF EAST RANKIN ACADEMY

East Rankin Academy will begin our new school year on August

9. Our students, faculty and staff look forward to the challenges and rewards that have accompanied our school for over forty years. Not only will our students receive daily instruction in a Bible-based curriculum, they will also compete with students from across our association in academics and athletics; while strengthening friendships and having the opportunity to grow stronger in their faith.

Our school has experienced steady growth through the years. This

growth is reflected by the many physical plant additions to our campus, increased offerings in both academics and co-curricular activities and the opportunity to compete at the highest levels of our accrediting association, the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools.

Although we have grown and appreciate the added opportunities of that growth, our mission remains the same. We are committed to pursuing the ideal of Proverbs 22:6 which in-

structs us to "Train up a child in the way he should go." Each student is encouraged to reach his or her greatest potential in all areas of life by keeping God first in their lives.

We wish each of our students, faculty and staff a great remainder of the summer season and look forward to their return at the beginning of the school year. We also invite all who are interested to visit our campus on those occasions of interest, which are listed on our website.

Pelahatchie Attendance Center welcomes students



BY: SHANE SANDERS, PRINCIPAL OF PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE CENTER

Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

As we prepare to start the 2013-2014 school year, I cannot help but think back to the accomplishments of our students and teachers from the previous year. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the many successes of our Pelahatchie family during 2012-2013.

Our students and teachers started the school year by being rated a high performing school for the third year in a row by the Mississippi Department of Education. In the fall of 2012, student council members and staff members selected Shannon Moore as Pelahatchie High School's Teacher of the Year and was also selected as the Teacher of the Year for the Rankin County School District (RCSD). We are certainly proud of Ms. Moore for this accomplishment, because she is

the first teacher ever from Pelahatchie to achieve this status under the current selection format.

Katrina Phillips was selected as Pelahatchie High School's Parent of the Year in 2012. Mrs. Phillips has been instrumental in leading our parent organization the last two years, and we appreciate her efforts to encourage parental involvement at our school.

In the spring of 2013, 11 students were recognized for achieving honors or high honors on the ACT. Kris Rogers, Dustin Ingram, Devan Goodman, Leah Davis, Dillon Winstead, Heather Pennypacker, JaBazz White, Brittney Gordon, Tristen Smith, Randa White and Abby Harmon were all honored by the RCSD for this accomplishment.

The class of 2013 was offered over \$1.6 million in scholarships. This amount was the most ever offered to a graduating class. Heather Pennypacker led all graduates with a total of \$228,680.

In addition to the academic suc-

cesses, our students experienced several accomplishments that deserve recognition with our extra-curricular programs. All of our athletic teams made the MHSAA state playoffs this year, which began with our football team that advanced to the quarter finals and finished with a 10-3 record. Our student athletes also completed 2012-2013 with a state championship in powerlifting. Congratulations to Coach Courtney, Coach Bishop, Kendall Rhodes, Sam Jones, Keldrick Sullivan, Kacey Myers, Cody Graham and DJ Jennings. All of our athletic teams were recognized as being Scholar Athlete teams by the MHSAA. The football, slow pitch softball, fast pitch softball, girls and boys basketball, cross country, baseball team, track teams and cheerleading squad qualified as Scholar Athlete Teams.

On an individual level, several of our student athletes were recognized. Keldrick Sullivan was named the Blitz 16 Player of the Week during the second week of the 2012 football

season. Darrin Sherman, Keldrick Sullivan, Kacey Myers, Cortez Ousley, Kendall Rhodes, Sam Jones and Dillon Winstead were all named to the 1A All State Football Team. Four of our football players signed with local colleges to continue their playing career. Kendall Rhodes will play at Belhaven College. Keldrick Sullivan and Darrin Sherman will move on to Hinds Community College, and Sam Jones will be continuing his career at East Central Community College.

During the baseball season, Andrew Gough was selected to play in the Crossroads Diamond Club 1A, 2A, 3A All-Star game and was also chosen as 2nd team All-Metro by the Clarion Ledger. Andrew recently committed to play baseball at Southwest Community College.

We completed the first full year playing on our new softball field. In addition, the new concession stand/press box/field house facility for our girls is in the final stages of construction.

- continued on page 5 -



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EAST RANKIN ACADEMY GENERAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 5-9	Orientation and preparation days for all staff and faculty
August 9	High school orientation (1st day of school for high students) -9th grade students and parents (8-9:30 a.m.) -10th-12th grade students and parents (10:30 a.m.- 12:30p.m.)
August 11	K4-3rd grade parent-teacher orientation -K4, K5 and 1st grade parents (2 p.m.) -2nd and 3rd grade parents (3:30 p.m.)
August 12	First day of school for K4 and K5 (7:45-11 a.m.) -4th-8th grade parent-teacher orientation -4th-6th grade parents (6:30 p.m.) -7th-8th grade parents (7:30 p.m.)
August 13	Regular school day for K4-12th grade

EAST RANKIN ACADEMY SPORTS CALENDAR

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
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GIRLS SOFTBALL

AUG. 8	PARKLANE	AWAY	5/6:30 P.M.
AUG. 9	HARTFIELD	HOME	4:00 P.M.
AUG. 12	COPIAH	HOME	4/5:30 P.M.
AUG. 15	PCS	HOME	4/5:30 P.M.
AUG. 19	HARTFIELD	HOME	4:00 P.M.
AUG. 24	FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT	AWAY	TBD
AUG. 26	OAK FOREST	AWAY	4:00 P.M.
AUG. 29	CENTRAL HINDS	AWAY	4/5:00 P.M.

GIRLS SOCCER

AUG. 15	PCS	HOME	5:00 P.M.
AUG. 19	LAMAR	AWAY	5:00 P.M.
AUG. 26	JACKSON PREP	HOME	5:00 P.M.
AUG. 29	COPIAH	AWAY	4:00 P.M.

ELEMENTARY FOOTBALL

AUG. 17	JAMBOREE	AWAY	TBD
AUG. 20	SIMPSON	HOME	6/7:00 P.M.
AUG. 26	HILCREST	AWAY	6/7:00 P.M.

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

AUG. 29	COPIAH	AWAY	5:30/6:45 P.M.
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VARSITY FOOTBALL

AUG. 23	CENTRAL HINDS	HOME	7:00 P.M.
AUG. 30	STARKVILLE	AWAY	7:00 P.M.



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Pelahatchie pays it forward with Praise in the Park

BY: KRISTEN J. RIALS

There is no better way to end the summer than to have the ability to pay it forward to someone in need. At least, this is what Kenneth and Michelle Shearer are planning to do.

Last year, the Shearer family was shocked to discover that Kenneth Shearer had a softball sized brain tumor. After the tumor was removed, Shearer experienced many strokes; however, the family never gave up hope.

Kenneth Shearer and his family struggled and battled through rehab, and Kenneth has come a long way with the love and support of his family, friends, church and community. The Shearers are now looking to pay it

forward, and they want to help someone in need like so many have done for them.

"Kenneth and Michelle have been looking for a way to pay forward the kindness and love that has been poured out to them from the community," said Katrina Phillips, close friend of the Shearers.

The chance that the Shearers had been praying for came through the help of Kona Ice of the Bayou. Kona Ice has been involved with two of the fundraisers designed for the Shearers by Cross Roads Baptist Church. According to Phillips, Kona Ice wanted to give back to the Shearer family; however, the Shearers wanted to use

- continued on page 5 -



Pictured are Kenneth and Michelle Shearer. (Photo by: Kristen J. Rials)



GLUTEST KIDS
Pelahatchie

FACEBOOK PHOTO CONTEST!
JULY 20 - AUGUST 24

ABOUT THE CONTEST

- WE WANT TO SEE PHOTOS OF YOUR CHILDREN ENJOYING A FAVORITE ACTIVITY IN PELAHATCHIE! (PHOTO MUST BE TAKEN IN PELAHATCHIE)

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- SEND US YOUR PHOTO THROUGH A FACEBOOK MESSAGE & WE'LL POST IT TO THE CONTEST ALBUM. (1 PHOTO PER FAMILY- PHOTO CAN INCLUDE MORE THAN 1 CHILD)
- INCLUDE THEIR FIRST NAME(S), AGE(S), AND WHAT ACTIVITY THEY WERE DOING!
- CLICK ON THE "SHARE" BUTTON BELOW YOUR PHOTO TO SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS! THE PHOTO WITH THE MOST "LIKES" WINS!
- CONTEST WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY 5PM ON AUGUST 24TH!

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Pelahatchie
NEWS

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The Chieftain Community Club

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

The mission of The Chieftain Community Club (CCC) is to support the students and faculty of Pelahatchie Attendance Center (PAC) in the goal of Academic Excellence by:

- 1 Informing parents and community leaders of particular needs of PAC and implementing strategies/projects to address these needs;
- 2 Presenting parents and community leaders with the necessary information and general knowledge of challenges affecting the students and families in our school and empowering the families with resources to combat these challenges;
- 3 Raise community awareness of the achievements of the students and faculty at our "high performing" and distinguished Title 1 School;
- 4 Appreciating our teachers and encouraging our students for their ac-

complishments and hard work by presenting gifts, rewards and incentives throughout the year.

Did you notice that our mission statement says nothing about fundraising? That is not what we are all about! We believe in working hard to help our students, teachers and faculty accomplish their goals.

Last year, we aided the school in several different ways. We helped plan and execute the Teacher/ Staff Appreciation Breakfast, and we provided breakfast for the school board's visit. We also hosted the 2nd Annual Parent Information and Resource Fair and planned the first ever homecoming celebration at Musca-

dine Park.

If you are interested in learning more about the CCC, come and join us on August 13 immediately following Open House. We appreciate your support, and we hope to see you there.



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

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- 129 Hanover Drive, Brandon. 3BD, 2.5BA, 1782 +/- sqft. Formal dining room. \$163,000
- 57 Eastbrooke, Jackson. 2BD, 2.5BA, 1832 +/- sqft. Condo, priced below appraisal. \$150,000
- 473 Magnolia Drive, Brandon. 3BD, 2BA, 1356 +/- sqft. Freshly painted inside and out. \$135,000

PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE CENTER GENERAL CALENDAR

AUGUST 8	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
AUGUST 13	OPEN HOUSE
AUGUST 16	SENIOR PORTRAITS

PELAHATCHIE ATTENDANCE CENTER SPORTS CALENDAR

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
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GIRLS SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL

AUG. 17	LAKE CLASSIC	LAKE	TBA
AUG. 19-20	RANKIN COUNTY TOURNAMENT	BRANDON	TBA
AUG. 27	PUCKETT	HOME	4/5:30 P.M.
AUG. 29	FOREST	AWAY	5/6:00 P.M.

FOOTBALL

AUG. 23	PISGAH	AWAY	7:00 P.M.
AUG. 30	PUCKETT	HOME	7:00 P.M.

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Pelahatchie Attendance Center welcomes students

- continued from page 1 -

struction. Thanks to Coach Bishop for the time he has spent on this project and also to Mr. Ray Mann and the RCSD for making it possible.

In other activities, Brittney Gordon became the first Pelahatchie JROTC cadet to receive the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross. Only five students in Rankin County and less than 1% of cadets nationwide qualified for this award.

Our JROTC rifle team had a great year. They finished in 5th place overall in the Mississippi/Louisiana Rifle League and placed 6th in the Army division in the regional finals. Members of that team were Willie Meadows, Brittney Gordon, Leah Jackson and Tristen Smith.

Our Venture students won first place in the Community Problem Solving Contest at the State Affinity Bowl at the Mississippi University of Women in Columbus. By doing so, they earned the opportunity to compete in the International Bowl in Indiana. Jordan Bishop, Drew Harrell, Jacob Henderson, Anna Creel and Kameron Morri-

were the team members.

Once again, Mrs. Merceir and the cast of Willy Wonka Jr. did an outstanding job presenting the musical in January. This was the third year for students in 2nd-12th grades to produce a large-scale student musical.

Finally, our students and teachers wrapped up the year by being named a silver medal school by *U.S. News and World Report*. Pelahatchie was one of four silver medal schools in the state. We are very proud of our students and teachers for this accomplishment.

Looking forward to the 2013-2014 school year, we are excited about many things. We have a great group of Seniors, and we are looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of the class of 2014. This will be the first year for full implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CSS) at the high school level, and we look forward to the benefits that this new curriculum will bring. For more information on the CCSS, please see the Mississippi Department of Education's website.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff mem-

bers to Pelahatchie High. Mrs. Shawn Richards will be teaching Art I-IV and Ceramics. Mrs. Richards comes to us from Madison County. Mr. Justin Gough will be joining our History Department. He will be teaching Mississippi Studies, Geography, World History and Advanced Placement World History. Finally, Mrs. Stacy Garletts will be joining our staff as our MSIS/Records Clerk. She will be working with Mrs. Johns in the counselor's office.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Aug. 13, for our annual open house at 6:00 p.m. Please plan to join us. The Chieftain Community Club (CCC) will also be meeting that evening, and they have several exciting projects planned for the year.

Senior parents, we will be sending home information within the first couple weeks of school about our Senior Scholarship Night. Educational Services Foundation will be on site to provide valuable information about scholarships and financial aid. They will return in February to assist parents with completing the FAFSA applica-

tion. This is the first step to qualify for financial aid for college.

As in years past, we will continue to offer ACT workshops for our students. These workshops are free to students and usually consist of two afternoons/evenings. The first session is for English and Reading, and the second session is for Math, Science and testing strategies. If you want your son or daughter to qualify for scholarships, their ACT score is where it all starts.

Parents, please encourage your student to take advantage of our Dual Credit classes. These courses are taught in conjunction with Hinds Community College, and students can earn up to 23 college credit hours. Pelahatchie teachers are the instructors, and the courses are taught on our campus. The cost is minimal compared to most other post secondary options.

As we prepare to embark on a new school year, let me take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation to our parents and community. Your support of our students and teachers is invaluable and imperative to their continued success.

Pelahatchie pays it forward with Praise in the Park

- continued from page 3 -

this opportunity to help Tommy Tullos, an individual in the Pelahatchie community who has been sick for quite some time.

"Kona Ice's corporate office selecting the Shearer's story for their 'Gather and Giveback' promotion has opened up the perfect opportunity for them to give back by telling their story and helping raise funds for the Tullos family," said Phillips.

On Tuesday, August 20, Kona Ice of the Bayou, Bucky Alman/Stagelite and Sound, the Town of Pelahatchie and Doc's BBQ will all come together to help sponsor "Praise in the Park: Gather and Giveback" in Muscadine Park from 6-9 p.m. Kona

Ice and Doc's BBQ will have trucks set up, and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Tullos's medical fund.

According to Phillips, there will be a variety of groups singing, and there will be space jumps for children as long as a \$5 wish is received.

"I hope that 'Praise in the Park' becomes a regular event in Pelahatchie," said Phillips. "Not necessarily to raise funds but to get the whole town together to sing praises for all the blessings we have. To me, that is what it is all about...gathering and giving back praises."

If you would like to perform during this event, contact Katrina Phillips at (601) 672-6001.

RUTHIE'S RECIPES

BLUEBERRY BANANA PIE

BY: RUTH PURVIS

- 2 BAKED PIECRUST OR 2 GRAHAM CRACKER CRUSTS (WHICHEVER YOU LIKE BEST. I USE REGULAR PIE CRUST)
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- 8 OZ. CREAM CHEESE (I LIKE 1/3 LESS FAT) SOFTENED
- 1 PKG DREAM WHIP
- 1 CUP SUGAR
- 1/2 CUP 2 % MILK
- 1 CAN BLUEBERRY PIE FILLING

DIRECTIONS:

TAKE PIE SHELLS, AND CUT UP TWO BANANAS IN EACH ONE. MAKE DREAM WHIP AS DIRECTED ON BOX AND ADD SUGAR. WHIP TOGETHER FOR ABOUT ONE MINUTE AND ADD CREAM CHEESE; WHIP UNTIL ITS CREAMY (ABOUT 1 MIN.). POUR OVER THE BANANAS IN PIE SHELL, AND THEN, TOP WITH BLUEBERRY PIE FILLING. REFRIGERATE FOR AT LEAST TWO OR THREE HOURS OR OVERNIGHT. I PROMISE YOUR FAMILY WILL WANT MORE THAN ONE PIECE!

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2013-2014 Pelahatchie Elementary supply lists

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade
• 4 boxes Crayola crayons (24 count) • 8 large glue sticks • 24 wooden pencils • 2 pkg manila paper 12x18 • 8 dry erase markers (black preferred) • 2 packs Crayola markers (8 count, classic colors) • 1 pair blunt scissors (Fiskars preferred) • 2 large bottles of glue • 4 plastic folders with brads and pockets (red, yellow, blue, green preferred) • 1 nylon 3-ring pencil zipper pouch • 1 pack pink bar erasers • 1 pack assorted construction paper	• 1 pair blunt scissors (Fiskars preferred) • 2 boxes Crayola crayons (24 count) • 24 wooden pencils • 4 plastic folders with brads and pockets (red, yellow, green, blue preferred) • 3 packages of manila paper 12x18 • 8 large glue sticks • 3 pink bar erasers • 1 box Crayola markers (classic colors) • 8 dry erase markers (black preferred) • 1 primary journal (Mead, stage 3) • 1 pkg index cards (3x5) • 2 writing tablets (½ in. ruled) • 1 pack assorted construction paper	• 1 pair scissors (Fiskars preferred) • 2 pks wide ruled notebook paper • 48 wooden pencils • 1 – 1 in. binder (black preferred) • 1 pkg manila paper 12x18 • 4 large glue sticks or 8 small glue sticks • 2 boxes Crayola crayons (24 count) • 2 boxes of Crayola markers (8 count, classic colors) • 2 bar erasers • 2 spiral notebooks (wide ruled 70 count) • 2 dry erase markers (black preferred) • 4 plastic folders with brads and pockets (red, blue, green, yellow preferred) • 2 pkg of index cards • 1 pkg of tab binder dividers • 1 pencil zipper bag clear with 3 holes for binder • 1 pack assorted construction paper	• 48 wooden pencils • 4 pks notebook paper (wide ruled) • 12 plastic pocket folders with pockets and brads (2 each-red, blue, green, orange, purple, yellow preferred) • 1 pkg manila paper 12x18 • 5 dry erase markers (black preferred) • 1 pair blunt tip scissors (Fiskars preferred) • 4 large glue sticks • 2 pks Crayola crayons (24 count) • 2 highlighters • 2 red pens • 1 pkg pencil top erasers • 2 black marble composition notebooks • 2 pkg Post-it notes • 1 nylon zippered pencil pouch • 1 pack assorted construction paper

There is also a \$15.00 supply fee for consumable math, science, and art supplies.
 For more information on supplies for Pelahatchie Elementary visit: <http://rankin.schoolwires.net/Page/28369>

Cross Roads Baptist Church

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Sunday Schedule

8:30 - Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 - Bible Study for all ages
 11:00 - Blended Worship Service
 5:00 - Cross Clubs for Children & Students
 6:00 - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 Family Dinner
 7:00 - Children's Mission Activities • Student Worship
 Ladies Bible Study • Couples Support Group
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**BACK TO SCHOOL
 WORSHIP
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MUSIC! WORSHIP!
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Saturday, August 10
 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Music by the CRBC Praise Team
Message by Kevin Halle

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Pelahatchie resident inspired to open new fitness center

BY: KRISTEN J. RIALS

The Town of Pelahatchie is a special place, filled with sweet southern comfort charm. However, with all the great opportunities that the town provides, there is still one important factor missing... a gym.

In today's society, physical fitness has fallen by the wayside and is forced to compete for a small slot in our day-to-day hectic grinds. With jobs, cell phones, computers, kids and the other stresses of life, it is a difficult task to muster up the energy to take that extra step to leave the sweet comfort of our homes and town just to work out. However, Pelahatchie native Michelle Carter has just the idea to make getting healthy and fit much easier.

According to Carter, she has been thinking about building and opening a gym in Pelahatchie for quite some time. Like many others, Carter was tired of having to visit other towns in order to have the opportunity to work out at a fitness center. So, instead of sitting and waiting, she has taken matters into her own hands, and she is opening Brickhouse Fitness Center right here in

Pelahatchie.

"I love Pelahatchie! It has been my hometown ever since my parents brought me home from the hospital, and I want our town to prosper," said Carter. "I hope that my gym will add to the great things that are already in place within our town."

Throughout the process of turning this gym from a dream to a reality, Carter says she has been very fortunate to have a great support system to help her make the jump from experienced teacher to savvy business woman.

"There have been several individuals that have made this project successful. The first was Hayes Patrick," said Carter. "He is a former student of mine, and he has been gracious enough to share his knowledge of building a fitness center in a small town and has given me invaluable contacts and information."

Among the list of helpful hands is Pelahatchie's mayor, Knox Ross, Jr. and the Ross and Betts team. They have been a vital asset throughout each phase of the process.

Currently, the Brickhouse Fit-
- continued on page 14 -



The construction of Brickhouse Fitness Center is well underway. (Photo by: Kristen J. Rials)

PAC receives MHSAA designation

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

Pelahatchie High School's Scholar Athlete Teams received designation from the MHSAA for the 2012-2013 school year. A 3.0 team grade point average is required to receive this recognition. All Pelahatchie Attendance Center sports teams received this designation.

- Girls Slow Pitch Softball
- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Cheerleading
- Football
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Track
- Girls Track
- Baseball
- Girls Fast Pitch Softball
- Powerlifting





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Cross Roads Baptist Church honors pastor

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

A garden reception honoring Brother John Vaughn and wife, Kathy, was held in the fellowship hall at Cross Roads Baptist Church on Sunday, July 21. The congregation celebrated ten years of dedicated service by the Vaughn family.

Vaughn graduated from New Orleans Baptist Seminary in 1983. His first pastorate was Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Simpson County from 1981 – 1983. He then served Arkadelphia Baptist Church in Lauderdale County from 1983 – 1987. The Vaughns served as missionaries in

Brazil for sixteen years, 1987 – 2003.

In May 2003, John accepted the position as pastor at Cross Roads Baptist Church. Under his leadership, CRBC has allowed the Lord to use its body of believers to reach people for the Kingdom. Over the past ten years, church membership has increased over 400 people, with a vast number of those through baptism. Attendance has necessitated two worship services. Increased participation in Sunday school and other activities has led Cross Roads Baptist Church to undertake an expansion in its facilities. In November of 2012, the new 20,000

square foot facility was completed and housed a new fellowship hall that seats 450 and 18 new classrooms. Additional staff was needed and employed to assist Brother John in serving church family and reaching the lost in our community.

“Serving as a deacon with Brother John has been a joy. Not only is he the easiest pastor that I have served under, he always goes above and beyond what is expected of him,” stated Riley Tripp.

John and Kathy are the parents of Michelle Baker of Ashdown, Ark., Mark Vaughn of Little Rock, Ark. and

David Vaughn of Crossroads. They have five grandchildren.



Pictured are Pastor John Vaughn and his wife, Kathy Vaughn. (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)



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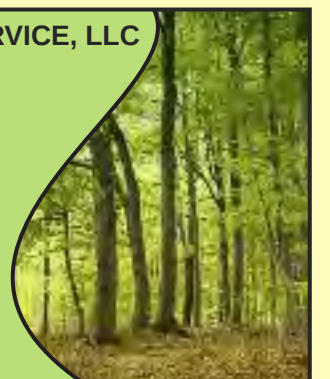
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PASTOR'S CORNER

By: JOSEPH OSTER
REVEREND OF LEESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

What is the church? Is the church a building? Is it the place where believers gather to worship? Or is the church the people—the believers who follow Christ?

How we understand and perceive the church is quite important in determining how we live out our faith.

Jesus was the first to mention the church in Matthew 16:18, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The word "church" in the New Testament comes from the Greek term "ekklesia" which means "called out ones." In summary, the New Testament church is a body of believers who have been called out from the world by God to live as his people under the authority of Jesus Christ. The church, therefore, is not a place. It is not the building. It is not the location, and it is not the denomination. We—God's people who are in Christ Jesus—are the church. In other words, Jesus

died for people! He did not die for bricks, mortar and pews. He died for people! If Christ cares about people, shouldn't we?

It is an all too common fact that most congregations have fights, divisions and schemes, which lead to hatred and unforgiveness. This happens because we are sinful people. The excuses for the conflict are numerous, but they all stem from the same root, selfishness and pride.

Read James 4:1-3. You will see that we are influenced daily by an immoral culture, and one hour a week in church is inadequate to counter the culture. We think, talk and act in the world's image, instead of in the image of our Head, the Lord Jesus. The world's standard is one of self-promotion, self-esteem and self-worship. We value other people only as long as they are willing to idolize us the way we idolize ourselves. This attitude always leads to "dissension and jealousy," which are the inevitable results of worshipping the god of self.

The cure is found in Titus 2:11-13. We need to renounce worldly passions and see one another in the light of the cross. Jesus Christ died a horrible and painful death. He did this to exchange His righteous perfection for not just my sins but for others' sins, too. How can we not extend to them the love, compassion, and grace of our heavenly Father? How can we demean,

criticize and defame those covered with the precious blood of Christ? Were we not slaves to sin when He called us? Were we not hopelessly lost and dead in our own transgressions and sins (Ephesians 2:1)?

We are now slaves of Christ, slaves to righteousness, and the task before us is not to quarrel and demand our needs be met. It is to reflect His grace and love to those who are also His by His mercy. A church full of these people will be a true, biblical church.

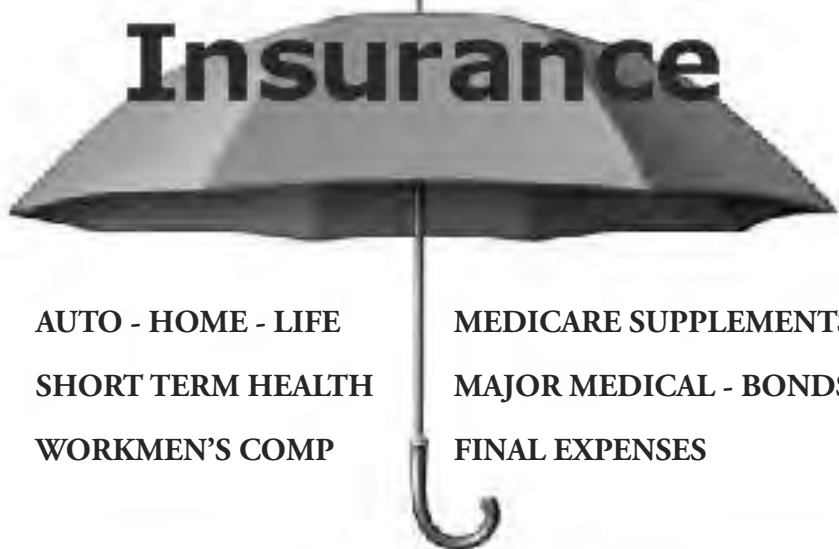
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How to battle the back to school blues

BY: KRISTEN J. RIALS

With the ending of July comes the newly approaching "dog days of summer" and the ending of summer vacation. The academic school year is about to make its debut, and soon we will begin to hear the whines and nervous complaints from our children about having to go back to the chalkboard of learning and early mornings.

How do we as parents and guardians battle the dreadful back to school blues? Here are three tips to help you and your child battle those first initial weeks of hectic schedules and homework:

1) Be positive. As a parent/guardian, children are watching your every step and action. The attitude you have is the one they will mirror. So, when starting the back to school routines, make sure to point out all of the positive aspects that going back to school will bring, such as being able to see their friends.

2) Be creative. It is amazing how children can find the smallest things exciting, and letting them show their creativity is a great way to battle the

blues. Encourage your child to pick out their favorite notebooks and to decorate their binders. Allowing your child to be creative with their school supplies makes them take ownership and will give them a sense of pride. Most importantly, they will be enthusiastic about showing off

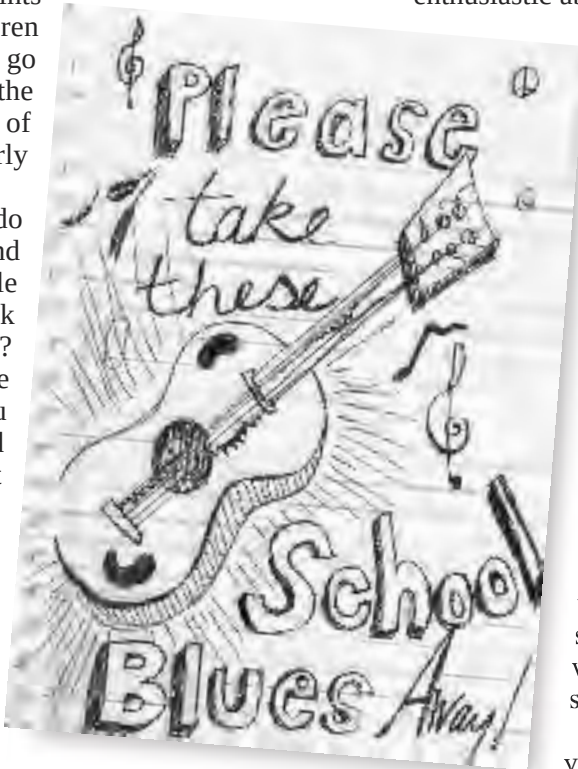
their own designs to their school mates and teachers.

3) Be active. School is not just about grades. The social aspect of school is an important part of any child's development. By emphasizing the different activities he/she can take part in, the more inspired your child will be about school.

Encourage your child to take tennis lessons or to take part in the

Beta Club. The more involved they are in school activities, the more excited your child will be about returning to school.

Battling the blues can be a hard fought battle; however, with the right attitude and techniques, your child will be brandishing a smile on the first day of school.



Special to The Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie Baptist Church holds colossal coaster VBS

SPECIAL TO *THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS*

Pelahatchie Baptist Church (PBC) began their colossal coaster-themed Vacation Bible School (VBS) on Monday, July 15, and ended with a

family night celebration that included cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn on Friday, July 19. PBC experienced a high average attendance of 100 children over the course of the week.



(Right) Some of the attendees taking part in playing the game of Fear Factor during the worship celebration.

(Below) Parents, workers and children getting ready to begin the worship celebration. (Photos special to The Pelahatchie News)



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Pelahatchie graduate signs with Southwest Community College



SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS
Pelahatchie Attendance Center graduate, Andrew Gough, has committed to play baseball at Southwest Community College for the upcoming year.

Pictured are (l to r): John Gough, Andrew Gough, Bridgett Gough and baseball coach Brian Edwards (back). (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

Photos Special to The Pelahatchie News

Drivers urged to be cautious in school bus loading, drop-off areas

SPECIAL TO THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS

As August approaches, the burden on traffic and drivers increases, and drivers need to be aware of bus schedules and procedures.

"The bus routes have not changed from the previous year. The only exception is that with the addition of our new Pre-Kindergarten program, some of the pick-up times in the mornings and the drop-off times in the afternoons may be a little different from last year," said Rob Knight, Pelahatchie Attendance Center's director of transportation. "Buses will begin picking up students between 6:30 – 7:15 a.m."

Drivers are asked to be careful on the roadways in morning and afternoon school traffic. According to Knight, there are a few safety tips that drivers need to keep in mind now that school is back in session:

- 1) Have children at the bus stop a few minutes ahead of time and in as visible of an area as possible to ensure that drivers notice them.
- 2) If for some reason a parent is not able to meet their child at their respec-



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

tive spot, they should notify the school of any changes.

3) Students need to watch the bus driver before crossing the street when loading and unloading buses. The bus drivers have mirrors that allow them to see around the bus, and they can make sure traffic is stopped before signaling the child to cross the street.

4) Be VERY careful when driving in the mornings and afternoons during the times buses are transporting students. Buses stop frequently. If lights are flashing, make a complete stop for the bus so they can perform their tasks. Make sure to never pass a stopped school bus. It is the law, and it carries a hefty penalty for violators.

For more information about transportation, visit the Rankin County School District website at www.rcsd.ms/transportation.

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Senior Citizens dance the night away

BY: KRISTEN J. RIALS

On Friday, August 2, the senior citizens of Pelahatchie met together at the Pelahatchie Town Center at 7 p.m. for another one of their much loved dances. Glenda Shoemaker, police chief

for Pelahatchie, organizes the dances a few times out of the year to keep the community excited and moving. The attendees got to experience great food, good friends and lots of two step action.



Photos by: Kristen J. Rials.



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Pelahatchie United Methodist Church holds Kingdom Rock VBS

BY: LYNETTE LITTLE

Kids and the young at heart from all over the community joined in an epic adventure inside the castle at Kingdom Rock. Royalty from King David to Queen Esther to King Josiah to Nehemiah (the King's cupbearer) to King Jesus visited to tell their stories

of standing strong for God. We sang and danced, acted in skits, did science experiments, competed in tournament games and feasted in the King's Kitchen. It was a week we will never forget: *Kingdom Rock - Where Kids Stand Strong For God - Vacation Bible School 2013!*

Children who attended The Kingdom Rock Vacation Bible School at Pelahatchie United Methodist Church raise their arms in motion to one of the many songs they learned during VBS.



(Left) Children attending also took part in bringing to life the carrying of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(Below) VBS attendees share in an experiment.

Photos special to The Pelahatchie News).



The Pelahatchie News participates in Ice Cream Safari

SPECIAL TO *THE PELAHATCHIE NEWS*

On July 13, local media gathered from around the Jackson metro area at the Jackson Zoo to participate in the annual Ice Cream Safari. Clay Mansell,

owner of *The Pelahatchie News*, and Kristen J. Rials, Editor of *The Pelahatchie News*, attended the event. Mrs. Rials was the celebrity scooper for the Pelahatchie Community.



Pictured are Kristen J. Rials and Angel Ford, volunteer scooper. (Photo by; The Pelahatchie News)

Pelahatchie resident inspired to open new fitness center

- continued from page 7 -

ness Center is under construction, and if everything goes smoothly, Carter will be the proud owner of a fitness center by late October or early November. The gym will be a 24/7 facility and will be staffed from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., Monday – Friday. It will feature machine weights, free weights, full and half racks and cardio equipment. Tan-

ning will also be offered to members.

Membership prices have not been set yet. However, rates will be different for individuals, couples and families with different contract lengths.

"I hope to give the people of Pelahatchie a convenient place to work out," stated Carter. "I want young, old and in between to experience the value of physical fitness."

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