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September
2013

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Pelahatchie, MS

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

Pelahatchie prepares to host 33rd annual Muscadine Jubilee

MUSCADINE JUBILEE Entertainment Schedule

10:15 – 11:15	Jared Vardaman
11:00 – 12:00	Daves Highway
12:00 – 12:20	Muscadine Stomp
12:20 – 1:00	Maggie Shoultz
1:00 – 2:00	Shadz of Grey
2:00 – 3:00	Troy Laz and 2Hipnotic Band
3:00	Neal McCoy

By Kristen J. Rials

As August is coming to a close, excitement about the Town of Pelahatchie's 33rd annual Muscadine Jubilee heightens. The jubilee is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Throughout the day's festivities, there will be a great line-up of entertainment, including the festival's headliner, country singer Neal McCoy. McCoy graced the Muscadine Park stage a few years ago and was a hit. So, the Town of Pelahatchie brought the well-known entertainer back for another year.

To add to the entertainment, local celebrities will participate in the Muscadine Stomp. Residents are invited to come out to cheer for their favorite local.

Besides the musical talents gracing



Neal McCoy (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



2013 Muscadine Jubilee t-shirt (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

the stage, there will be booths filled with lots of crafts, trinkets and, of course, muscadine jelly. Food vendors will be present on the grounds with a variety of treats and BBQ.

For children, there will be special activities dedicated for just them. They will have the opportunity to ride ponies, bounce on inflatable bounce houses and slides and play other fun games.

The best part of this whole day of fun is it is only \$3 at the gate, and children under six get in for free.

Dozens of dedicated sponsors are helping to make the annual event a success.

"The Pelahatchie News is looking forward to participating with lots of other great sponsors in the Muscadine Jubilee," said publisher Clay Mansell. "It's a fun event for the entire family, and we hope to see everyone there!"

Pelahatchie holds annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

By Kristen J. Rials

Saturday, August 17, was the date for Pelahatchie's annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast; which is a definite sign that the Town's signature festival, The Muscadine Jubilee, is right around the corner. The morning started out with lots of chit chat and laughs, and laid out on buffet tables were helpings of sausage, eggs, grits, bacon and fruit.

To start the event, Rev. Robert Brown of Jackson, Miss. blessed the meal and gave the invocation. Afterward, Jared Vardaman sang the National Anthem and provided the entertainment.

Following the entertainment, May-



Speaker David Farris greeting attendees after giving his speech. (Photo by Kristen J. Rials)

or Knox Ross, Jr. welcomed everyone and pointed out the elected officials who were present; such as, Rep. Tom Miles, Alderwoman Megan Hall and Chancery Clerk Larry Swales. He also thanked everyone in attendance.

"All of you are our friends, and all of you are special to us," said Ross. "We appreciate everything that you do."

Then, David Farris of PriorityOne Bank gave an inspiring and motivational speech that touched on the importance of prayer. At the ending of the morning's activities, names were drawn to see who won the prizes, which included bags of goodies and plants, and then Tal Vardaman said a closing prayer.



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The Hot Spot: Fire Department News

By Jenny Coward

Looks like school is back in full swing, and the fall season is not far from us. The Delta District has been busy as normal with 188 calls responded to for the months of July and August between four of the Delta District fire departments. Pelahatchie Fire Department responded to 94 calls. Walters Fire Department responded to 36 calls. Lake Harbor Fire Department responded to 34 calls. Evergreen Fire Department responded to 24 calls.

On July 15, Pelahatchie Fire Department hosted a driver's safety class. Mississippi Highway Patrol officers, Derrick Elam and Bubba Holifield, spoke to a group of 25 or more Delta District members about safe driving when responding to and from a scene or emergency situation. In August, Walters Fire Department hosted a Rural Apparatus class, and the 12 firefighters attended the three-night class. Also, on August 26, Pelahatchie Fire Department hosted an in-depth triage class where over 40 members of the Delta District, along with members of other districts in Rankin County,

learned more about what needs to be done once triage actions are put into effect. On September 10, Walters Fire Department will be hosting a Landing Zone (LZ) Class that will teach members in attendance how to set up a landing zone for the landing of the Air Care helicopter. So, you can see the Delta District's school time did not take a summer break.

Here are some Hot Spot tips for safe cooking, especially with grease. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove. If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, check it regularly; and remain in the home while food is cooking. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking. Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cook-

ing. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and can catch fire if it comes in contact with the heat source. Keep anything that can catch fire, such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging and/or towels away from the stove top.



Grease fires are among the most common fires that occur while people are cooking. If a grease fire starts while cooking, do not use water on the grease fire. It can cause the grease to splatter and can spread the fire. The best way to extinguish a grease fire is to use an ABC portable fire extinguisher or

cover the fire with a lid or a larger pan. This removes the oxygen and smothers the fire. Also, you can use a large amount of table salt; this will smother the fire. So remember, when cooking, you should always stay alert. If the fire

gets too large for you to contain and extinguish, immediately call 9-1-1.

Walters Fire Department would like to thank those that donated the \$1.00 on their ACL water bills for the Walters Fire Department. With this act of generosity, three fire hydrants have been purchased and will be installed in the Walters fire district this fall.

Walters Fire Department would also like to invite everyone to come out for their awesome fish fry Saturday, September 21, at their station on Walters Road from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. As The Hot Spot has said before, if you have not had the chance to get a fish plate from this fish fry, you do not know what you are missing. My favorite is those yummy hush puppies...yum yum.

If you or someone you know would like to become a volunteer firefighter, we encourage you to contact your local fire department. It is a non-paying job, but the rewards of helping someone in need is worth more than any paycheck you can receive.

Until next Hot Spot news, I hope everyone remains safe and healthy. Should you need the Delta District, help is only three numbers away 9-1-1.



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PriorityOne Bank announces new Executive Vice President

Special to The Pelahatchie News

Robert J. Barnes, president and CEO of PriorityOne Bank, recently announced the hire of John Mark Williams as Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer for PriorityOne Bank.

Barnes stated, "I am delighted to have John Mark join PriorityOne Bank. His enthusiasm and previous work experience will make him a great asset to our team."

Williams comes to PriorityOne Bank from Natchez, Miss. and has

worked for Concordia Bank & Trust Company of Vidalia, La. for the past 24 years. He is a graduate of Delta State University with a Bachelors degree in Accounting. Williams and his wife, Patty, have four sons: Jeff, Lee, Glenn and Steen.

PriorityOne Bank, based in Magee, Miss., operates in ten communities: Collins, Seminary, Hattiesburg, Magee, Mendenhall, Richland, Brandon, Pearl, Pelahatchie and Morton. PriorityOne Mortgage also has

mortgage loan origination offices in Hattiesburg, Collins and Brandon, Mississippi.



Photo special to The Pelahatchie News

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Mississippi Care Center hosts an afternoon of bingo

By Nicole Kennedy

Residents of the Golden Age Apartments in Pelahatchie enjoyed food and fellowship on May 24, 2013, when Mississippi Care Center of Morton and other supporters sponsored an afternoon of bingo.

The event included numerous games of bingo, with winners receiving bananas as prizes. Boxed lunches, provided by Leesburg Baptist Church, were served afterwards. Care packages were distributed to all in attendance and included fresh fruit, basic food staples, bottled water, and more. The care

package items were donated by the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) (HOPE & Diva's) of New Liberty Baptist Church and WMU of Leesburg Baptist Church. The items were packaged by residents of the Mississippi Care Center of Morton. According to Lynn Irby, marketing coordinator for Mississippi Care Center of Morton, the Care Center residents enjoy any opportunity to give back to their local communities. This is just one small way that they are able to connect and contribute to others.

We had a great time visiting with the residents," said Irby.

Pelahatchie Chiefs FCA participates in cross walk



The Pelahatchie Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) participated in the FCA-sponsored walk on the opening day of school. The Pelahatchie Chapter carried the cross 3.1 miles on HWY 18 to Puckett, Miss. Pictured are: front row (l to r) Jasmiah Collier, Lacey Harpe, Antonio Moore, Zac Varner and Billy Ray Holly; and back row (l to r) Caitlin Bishop, Jessie Jones, Shane McFarland, Cameron Moore, James Lock, Mitchell Tagart, Kobi Gordin and Bill Ward. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



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East Rankin Academy Sports Calendar

Varsity Football

Sept. 6	Lamar	7:00	Away
Sept. 13	Tri-County	7:00	Home
Sept. 27	Brookhaven	7:00	Away

Jr. Varsity Football

Sept. 5	Parklane	5:30 B-team, 6:45 JV	Home
Sept. 12	Columbia	5:30 B-team, 6:45 JV	Home
Sept. 19	Oak Forest	5:30 B-team, 6:45 JV	Away
Sept. 26	Jackson Prep	5:30 B-team, 6:45 JV	Home

Elementary Football

Sept. 3	Columbia	6:00/7:00	Away
Sept. 9	Canton	6:00/7:00	Home
Sept. 17	Hartfield	6:00/7:00	Away
Sept. 24	Hillcrest	6:00/7:00	Home
Sept. 14	Prep Tournament	TBA	Away
Sept. 16	Parklane	4:00 V, 5:30 JV	Home

Girls Soccer

Sept. 3	Lamar	5:00	Home
Sept. 7	PCS	10:00	Away
Sept. 12	Prep	3:30	Away
Sept. 14	Oak Forest	11:00	Home
Sept. 19	Oak Forest	4:00	Away
Sept. 23	Copiah	5:00	Home
Sept. 24	Manchester	5:00	Away
Sept. 30	MRA	5:00	Away

Girls Fast Pitch Softball

Sept. 3	Columbia	4:00 V, 5:30 JV	Home
Sept. 5	Jackson Prep	4:00 V, 5:30 JV	Home
Sept. 7	Hillcrest Tournament	TBA (Varsity Only)	Away
Sept. 9	Columbia	4:00 V, 5:30 JV	Away
Sept. 10	Jackson Prep	4:30 V, 6:00 JV	Away

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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
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Highway 43, 5 miles south of I-20, Exit 68

Chiefs pound the Pisgah Dragons

Special to The Pelahatchie News

On August 23, the Pelahatchie Chiefs played against the Pisgah Dragons. The Chiefs scored on the first drive of the season to help them jump to a 21-13 half-time lead against the rival Dragons in the Battle of 43. Each team reached the end zone once in the third quarter. The Chiefs scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to put the game away.

Junior quarterback Tony Beeman, threw for 110 yards and two touchdowns. Senior Kobi Gordin was on the receiving end of both touchdown passes. Sophomore Jalen Hurst rushed for 100 yards and two touchdowns. Seniors Mitchell Tagert rushed for 61 yards and one touchdown. Junior Desmond McGee rushed for 83 yards. McGee also shared the team lead with Senior Zack Varner with seven tackles.



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Authors pay a special visit to Pelahatchie Elementary

Special to The Pelahatchie News

On Thursday, August 28, authors and illustrators of the *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* series, Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin, visited Pelahatchie Elementary School. They did a fun presentation for the children.

Afterward, they stayed and participated in “Coke and a Conversation” with two lucky students who purchased books. They also autographed over 50 books that were purchased by the PES community. The event was targeted at the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first-and second-grade students.



Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin having “Coke and a Conversation” with Pelahatchie Elementary Principal Ben Barlow. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



Students Mason Ingram and Kylie White meeting the authors. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)



Pelahatchie Attendance Center Sports Calendar

Football

Sept. 13	West Lowndes	7:00	Away
Sept. 20	Ethel	7:00	Away
Sept. 27	Nanah Waiya	7:00	Home

Girls Slow Pitch Softball

Sept. 5	Leake Co. (DH)	4:30 & 6:00 V	Away
Sept. 10	Forest	4:30 V, 6:00 JV	Home
Sept. 12	Sebastapol	4:30 JV, 6:00 V	Home
Sept. 17	Puckett	5:30 JV, 6:30 V	Away
Sept. 19	Lake	4:30 V, 6:00 JV	Home
Sept. 24	Sebastopol	5:00 JV, 6:00 V	Away

Cross Country

Sept. 28	St. Andrew’s Invitational	HS Only
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ERA		PAC	
VOLUNTEERS	28	WOLVES	38
PATRIOTS	7	CHIEFS	34



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Scam artists continue to target Entergy Mississippi customers

Special to The Pelahatchie News

As temperatures heated up this summer, so did efforts to scam Entergy Mississippi customers.

Despite warnings from Entergy, the Secretary of State, the Better Business Bureau and others, scammers continue to target small business owners and others, as they have since the scam began in Arkansas in late spring.

Con artists call customers and say that their electric bill is past due, and that their service will be cut within the hour if they don't pay up. They then tell customers to transfer funds electronically, sometimes through the system known as "MoneyPak."

Entergy doesn't want anyone to fall victim to this scam and reminds customers:

- While Entergy does place courtesy calls to customers at risk for

disconnection, these usually are recorded calls. Entergy NEVER demands immediate payment.

- Customers can pay their Entergy bill by phone or credit card, but ONLY through BillMatrix, a third-party vendor Entergy uses for this purpose.

- Never give personal information to strangers. If a call sounds suspicious, call 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) to speak with an Entergy customer service representative.

Customers can also manage their Entergy account and review account alert options by downloading the free

Entergy smart phone app or visiting entergy.com to register for myAccount.

Customers should only use authorized methods and legitimate banking information to pay their Entergy bill. Entergy offers several ways:

- Pay online – For no extra charge, customers can securely log in to myAccount at entergy.com to pay their bill online.
- Pay by phone – Customers can pay their bill by credit card, debit card or electronic check by calling Entergy's pay-by-phone provider, BillMatrix, at 1-800-584-1241. BillMatrix charges a \$2.95 service

fee.

- Walk-in payment centers – Customers can pay their bill by cash, check or money order at an authorized Quick Payment Center in their community. A convenience fee may apply.
- Bank draft – Customers can avoid late fees by having their Entergy payment automatically deducted from their checking account each month. Entergy will mail or email a monthly billing statement to customers, showing the bill amount and bank draft date.
- Pay by mail – Customers can send a check by U.S. Mail to the remittance address on their bill.

Customers who believe they may be a victim of this scam are encouraged to notify the proper authorities, such as the local police or the state attorney general's office.



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Business Spotlight: Fusion Martial Arts

“Making the world a better place with one black belt at a time”

Special to The Pelahatchie News

In the Dollar General Shopping Center, there sits an almost unnoticeable space, without even a sign to label its existence. To many, it is just an average-looking brick suite, but to a few people, it is the birth place of perseverance and self-discipline. This small and unique business is Fusion Martial Arts.

Since 2006, Fusion has been a part of the Pelahatchie community, and it home to an all nationally certified instructor staff with over 50 combined years of Taekwondo and teaching experience. Presently, Fusion houses students of all ages. Children and the adult classes are separated at Fusion, because adults that are training have different goals and requirements than children. However, they still have the same core values.

Adults start in martial arts for many different reasons. Some start because they have always wanted to take part in martial arts since their childhood, and other adults are interested in learning valuable self-defense skills needed to protect themselves. Some enjoy the

challenging physical fitness benefits. In the end, everyone receives the same personal life-improving benefits.

“I have learned so much about myself and others in the time I have spent

provement. All students do not have to be in great athletic shape to receive the benefits of martial arts training. Some students come into Fusion unable to bend over and touch their toes, and

ment. Every class is taught core values that are recited during every class to remind everyone what their true purpose is in martial arts training. These core values include: Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self-Control and Indomitable Spirit. The goal is to make the students better citizens and individuals than they were before and to improve the world around them.

In a culture that seems to glorify violence, the idea of enrolling a child in martial arts training classes does not always seem like a good one. Most people consider all martial art forms including Taekwondo as just a fighting tool because of the way it is depicted in movies and television shows. While martial arts-centered action films seem to be filled to the brim with violent behavior and gory injuries, most people would be surprised to learn that martial arts' training is actually very beneficial to kids. Like so many other things that Hollywood does not always get right, martial arts is not the brutal, vicious pastime that it seems. Classes at a quality martial arts academy are actually not violent at all, and in fact,

Continued on page 12



The Fusion students posing after rank testing. (Photo special to The Pelahatchie News)

taking Taekwondo,” said Jackie Davis, adult student at Fusion. “The instructors have a positive attitude and are always encouraging me to the best I can be.”

All of the adult classes are based around the concept of personal self-im-

provement. All students do not have to be in great athletic shape to receive the benefits of martial arts training. Some students come into Fusion unable to bend over and touch their toes, and

Although the classes are a great workout, the curriculum at Fusion is not just about physical fitness. It is all about a personal lifestyle improve-

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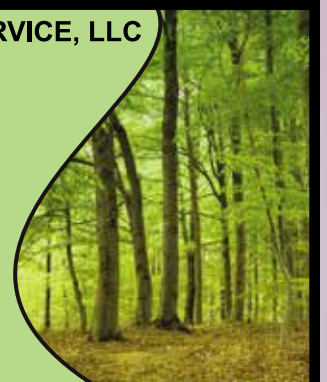
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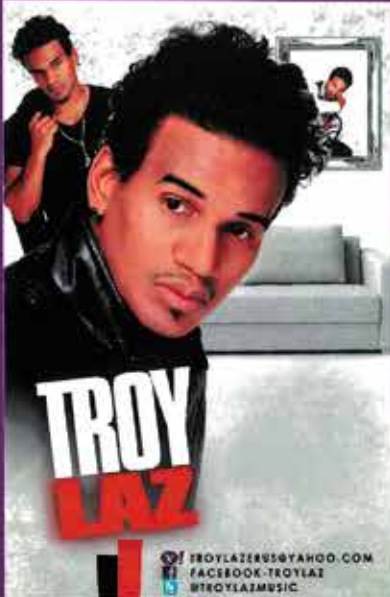
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11:30 am-12:00 Noon

MAGGIE SHOULTZ

12:00-12:20 pm

MUSCADINE STOMP

12.20 pm-1:00 pm

DAVE'S HIGHWAY

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SHADZ OF GREY

2:00 pm-3:00 pm

TROY LAZ AND 2 HIPNOTIC

3:00 pm

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Muscadine Jubilee

Saturday, September 14th
From **10am to 3pm**

Muscadine Park
Pelahatchie, MS

See You There!

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No purchase necessary. Parental consent required for all entrants under 18 years of age. Limit one entry per person. Deadline for entries is 3:00pm (CST) on Saturday, September 14, 2013. Winners will be contacted on Monday, September 16, 2013 via phone or email. Estimated value for the Kindle Fire is USD \$175. Estimated value for the iTunes gift cards are USD \$30 (1st place), USD \$20 (2nd place) and USD \$10 (3rd place), respectively. PriorityOne Bank may use the email address provided for marketing and other solicitations. Promotion is void where prohibited and in any jurisdiction where it has been voided by sponsor. Sponsored by PriorityOne Bank located at 528 2nd Street, Pelahatchie, MS 39145.

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The Pastor's Perspective: "The Tests of Life"

By Leslie Trigg
East Rankin Academy Chaplain

The buses are rolling in the mornings. Backpacks and lunch boxes are packed. The sound of cheering fills our Friday nights. That must mean... school is back! And with school, there comes tests.

Many times as students, we just memorize the lesson long enough to put the answers on the test. Then, we forgot all we had studied. By doing that, we truly never learn the lesson we were tested on. All that studying left little impact on

us. We were never truly "transformed" by what we were asked to learn.

Now, most of us have long since finished school and put those nasty tests behind us. We may have finished high school, but we are still in the school of life. Some of the tests in the school of life are truly pass or fail. The real

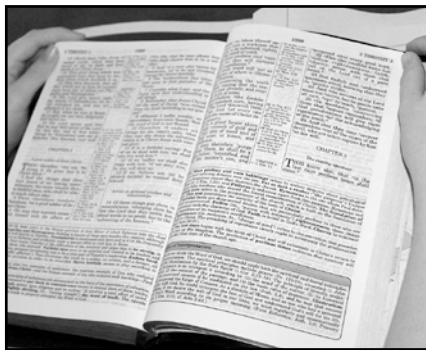


Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*

question is "Are we ready for the tests of life?"

The apostle Paul encourages us in 2 Timothy 2:15 to "study to show ourselves approved unto God." What are we to study? According to Psalm 119:15, we are to be studying God's Word. However, the question is whether we will study like we did in high school. Are we going to learn the material long enough to fill out the test? Or, are we going to be "transformed" by the Word? In Romans 12:2, we are encouraged to "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed

by the renewing of your mind." For that to happen, we must allow the Bible to be more than a book of facts and stories to be memorized and forgotten. The Bible must guide us, impact us and change us. When this occurs, you can be assured that you will pass the tests of life.

Pelahatchie student meets Karl Rove

Special to *The Pelahatchie News*

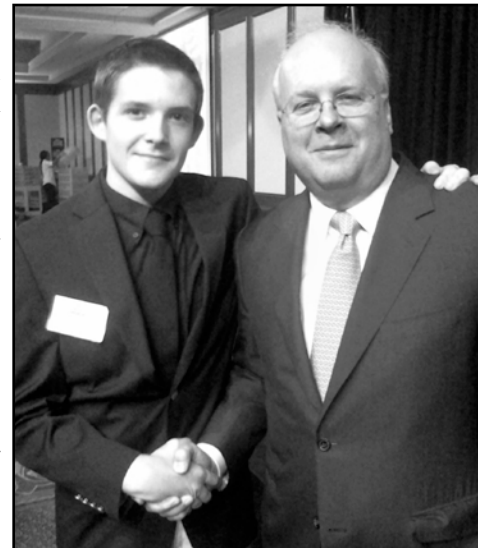
The Four Star Leadership with General Tommy Franks is a world-class summer leadership program that allows 50 of the top high school students in the United States to have a face-to-face experience with national and international leaders. Some of the program's participants are influential leaders, such as: Karl Rove, who has served as Senior Advisor to President George W. Bush; James Carafano, the Heritage Foundation's vice president; and Michelle Smith, an Olympic gold-medalist.

Benjamin Harrell, Pelahatchie

High School student, was chosen as the only student from Mississippi to attend. Throughout the conference, Benjamin met with leading policy experts on current issues that face the country. The students trained with Olympic athletes, discovered what it takes to be a leader and applied what they learned to their communities.

The program is built around the core principles of character, vision, communication and caring that guided General Tommy Franks through a 38-year military career, and it sets the platform for future American leaders.

As General Franks said, "Leaders serve."



Harrell meeting Karl Rove at the Four Star Leadership Conference. (Photo special to *The Pelahatchie News*)

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continued from page 7

Fusion Martial Arts

they teach the skills needed to avoid violence.

Parents love having their children in martial arts classes. Some of the benefits that children receive from Fusion's martial arts curriculum are:

- Improved self-respect
- Improved concentration and coordination
- Improved ability to set and achieve goals
- Learn self-discipline and focus
- Increased coordination
- Increased flexibility

"It is open to kids and family and is a great avenue for bringing the community together through a fun activity that teaches discipline, determination and mental focus," said Davis. "I look forward to each week and am excited about reaching goals week in and week out."

Aside from the weekly classes, Fusion spends a good deal of time trying to find ways to give back to the community. In the years 2010 and 2012, Fusion hosted a regional martial arts tournament at Pelahatchie High School's gym. The tournament brought in over 100 competitors plus many spectators from different states.

"Hosting a large tournament is ma-

jor responsibility. It takes a lot of effort and resources," said Billy Rials, senior instructor at Fusion. "However, it is worth all the work to see how excited it makes our students and community."

The tournament is a great event for the Town of Pelahatchie. During the weekend of the tournament, many families from different parts of the country get to experience all the great things Pelahatchie has to offer.

"Our tournaments would have not been as successful without the help of Pelahatchie High School and the many Pelahatchie businesses that donated their time and finances," said Rials. "We greatly appreciated all of them."

Another way Fusion Martial Arts tries to benefit the community is through offering free self-defense seminars to women. Fusion offers these seminars for free to increase awareness and promote valuable self-defense skills with hopes of preventing an unfortunate attack.

If any group is interested in Fusion leading one of these community self-defense seminars for your church or organization or in taking martial arts classes, call Fusion today at (601) 759-1123 or email an instructor at fusionmartialarts1@gmail.com.

PTO prepares for the school year

Special to The Pelahatchie News

School is in full swing, and Pelahatchie Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is preparing for another full year. The PTO's main goal is to join parents, community leaders, teachers, staff and local businesses together for the benefit of the students. The PTO is coming off of one of its most productive years.

Over the last two years, under the leadership of Rachael Boyer and

through the participation of many parents, teachers and students, the PTO

has raised over \$15,000. The PTO used this money to buy bike racks for the school, help purchase physical education equipment and help maintain a food pantry and clothes closet. The PTO also gave \$10,000 to the school to help purchase iPads for use by all students.

This year, the PTO has new officers beginning their two-year terms. These officers are: President- Paige Tucker, Vice President- Jennifer Quick, Secretary-Jenny Coward, Treasurer-Misty Edwards and Teacher Liaison- Robin Sanders.

The PTO is a non-profit organization. Everything is accomplished through donations and volunteers. Most of the organization's money is raised through fundraisers. This year, the PTO will be selling t-shirts, selling cookie dough, and hosting a Santa Store for students. This money is used only to benefit the school, teachers or students. The PTO will also be collecting Box Tops to raise money, as well.

These Box Tops are found on many items, such as cereals, fruit snacks, cake mixes and more.

The PTO also helps maintain a food pantry. This is to help any families who might need some food over the weekends. A teacher must be notified of the need, and a bag will be filled and sent home. The PTO can always use donations of non-perishable items for the food pantry.

Last year, a clothes closet was started at Pelahatchie Elementary. This is

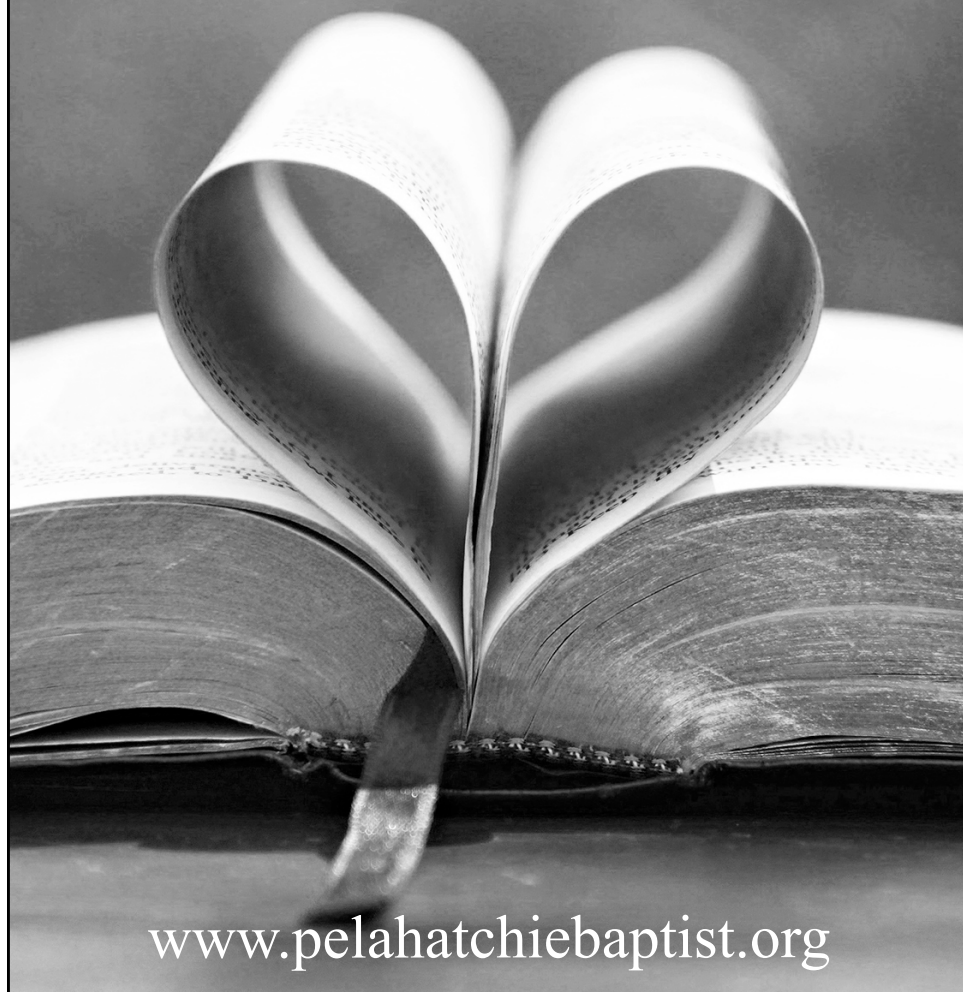
to benefit any student who may not have a jacket, have an accident and

need a change of clothes or have a mishap with a pair of shoes. The PTO helps purchase clothes or takes donations on an as-needed basis, since space is limited.

The PTO needs one important thing to be successful....YOU!! Anyone can join PTO- parents, teachers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, businesses, community leaders, etc. There is no fee to join. Joining does not mean you must volunteer for anything. Members will keep you informed of upcoming events, and there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer throughout the school year. All are welcome to help in any way. The first meeting will be September 10 at 6 p.m. at the elementary school. If you are interested in joining, forms are in the elementary office, or you join at the first meeting. The PTO is also on Facebook. Please like the Pelahatchie Elementary PTO page. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at chiefspto@gmail.com.



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Praise in the Muscadine Park

By Kristen J. Rials

On Tuesday, August 20, Pelahatchians gathered at Muscadine Park to enjoy Doc's BBQ, Kona Ice snow cones and great entertainment. Many bands graced Muscadine stage to lead the crowd in praises. While the locals were enjoying the weather and treats, the Kona Ice camera crew videoed the event as a part of their Give Back promotion.



(Photos by Kristen J. Rials)



A Kona Ice cameraman videoing children playing in a tree.



Kona Ice giving out snow cones.



Pelahatchians watching the Cross Roads Baptist Church perform on stage.



People lined up to eat BBQ from Doc's BBQ.

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Buddy Welch Reading Contest makes its debut

By Kristen J. Rials

"Industry is constant diligence in any proper employment; and we are happier when employed than when idle."

This gem of a statement is taken from the late 1800's work titled *ETHICS, An Early American Handbook*. In the publication, it expresses the early American ideals and principles of what it takes to be a moral and ethical person in society. It teaches such lessons as the importance of honesty, justice and conscience and how to react to situations when those simple truths are attacked. While the publication may seem dated, the issues and concepts presented by the book are still relevant in today's time.

For the Pelahatchie Masonic Lodge #276 ethics committee, *ETHICS* presents revelations that should be shared with the young people of Pelahatchie, so that they might learn to be good stewards of the community.

"This book presents timeless truths

that should be shared," said Mason Jerry Willis.

With help from the Pelahatchie Lion's Club and O.E.S Mary Francis chapter #22, the lodge is sponsoring the first Buddy Welch Children's Reading Contest. The contest is for children, ages 6-10. The children will be required to read the book *ETHICS*, and then they must write a report consisting of a minimum of one sentence (more is encouraged) about each chapter. Once all reports are turned in, seven judges will score the contents of the reports, and the three top winners will be chosen. All participants will receive a ribbon; however, the top three winners will receive cash prizes: 1st place - \$45, 2nd place - \$35 and 3rd place - \$25.

To enter the contest, there is a \$5 entry fee. Participants can register at the Pelahatchie Police Department starting Sept. 2, and all reports are due by Dec. 27.

For more information, call (601)405-4172 or (601)854-6097.



Community greening helps the environment

By Sarah Kountouris,
Keep Mississippi Beautiful Executive
Director

In the coming days, the work of one of Keep Mississippi Beautiful's (KMB) largest beautification projects will blossom, literally.

Our organization partnered with several nonprofits to sow more than one million flowering bulbs, the first of which should be blooming as fall nears. This effort was funded by donations by KMB and other groups, and it armed 26 communities across the state with boxes of flowering bulbs, including dahlias, gladiolas and peonies.

From the Coast to the Delta to northeast Mississippi, we worked with America Responds with Love, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Beverage Association, Mississippi Municipal League, our affiliates and many other partners to make this possible.

Planting trees, shrubs and flowers has obvious perks. Plants improve aesthetics, help clean air and water and provide shade and sanctuary.

However, the benefits of beautification efforts are bigger. They lead to higher property values and can truly transform a neighborhood.

For example, treescaped business

districts average 12 percent higher revenue than treeless areas. When a tree is planted within 50 feet of a home, it can increase the home's value by 9 percent, and homes within a quarter mile of a park boast a 10 percent higher value.

Research shows people prefer natural landscape to hardscapes, and it also shows that urban residents dislike treeless, empty spaces. When trees were added, more people took advantage of that urban place. A study also showed that exposure to public green spaces also builds a stronger sense of unity among residents. It is pretty amazing what a green thumb can do for a community.

In September, Keep America Beautiful and its many affiliates will celebrate National Planting Day. It is an event in which groups like us gather together to beautify communities.

I encourage you to see if your community has a Keep Mississippi Beautiful affiliate. If it does, join in and see how you can help clean and green your community. If it does not, please consider joining us for a volunteer project or look into starting an affiliate in your community.

To learn more about our beautification efforts, visit www.keepmsbeautiful.com or check us out on Facebook or Twitter.



Library showcases artist's model cars

By Kristen J. Rials

At the front of the Pelahatchie Public Library, there is a large glass display case filled with 41 different types of short track race cars...model cars, of course.

Pelahatchie resident John Gorday has been a model car and plane enthusiast since he was twelve years old.

"I remember playing with the neighbor's kids, and they said their parents were taking them to get a model airplane," said Gorday. "They said if I asked my parents that I might be able to get one, too."

Since that day, Gorday has built model cars and planes on and off. In his lifetime, he has constructed over 200 model cars, and in his current

collection, he has 89 different models of street rods, modified and full body race cars.

To show off the fruits of his labor, Gorday decided to call Tina Mauney, librarian at the Pelahatchie Public Library, to see if he could display his model cars in the library.

"I wanted to do more than show off my models," said Gorday. "I wanted to help the library by encouraging others to put exhibits and displays in there as well."

Mauney was excited at the prospect and said that she hoped it would encourage more people to want to display their exhibits at the library.

For more information about the exhibit or to find out more about showcasing an exhibit or display, contact the library at (601) 854-8764.



The model cars on display at the Pelahatchie Public Library. (Photos by Kristen J. Rials)

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Pelahatchie Cheerleaders achieve excellence awards



(Above) The nominees for the All-American Cheerleader and Leadership Award, pictured are: front row (l to r) Tiara Collier Caitlin Bishop, Jasmiah Collier, Lacey Harpe and Leilani Key; and back row (l to r) Gabbi Walters, Taquila Beemon, Alexis Hopson, Tabitha Phillips, Haley Jones and Ashlyn Elliot.



(Left) The junior high Pelahatchie Attendance Center cheerleaders received the "Most Improved Junior High Team" award. (Photo Special to The Pelahatchie News)



(Right) Lacey Harpe, Pelahatchie High School, received the All-American Cheerleader and Leadership Award, which is the highest distinction that can be achieved at cheerleading camp. (Photos Special to The Pelahatchie News)



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9/28 - JORDAN LAIRD & TYLER FITZGERALD
9/28 - MEREDITH WOODS & JONATHAN LEDFORD
10/12 - KRISTY BYRD & HUNTER THOMPSON
10/12 - BETH GOFF & DANIEL COLLIER
10/12 - MICHELLE COODY & EVAN MACMILLAN
10/19 - MEREDITH BEASLEY & MICHAEL SCARBOROUGH
10/19 - OLIVIA HARPOLE & JASON WEATHERFORD
10/20 - MEAGAN MILLIS & CODY ROBERTS
10/26 - DANA BROWNING & JOHN MCMORRIS
10/26 - GILLIAN PATRICK & REED ROBINSON
10/27 - JAMIE WRIGHT & CLINT WALKER
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